



Important dates

JANUARY 28, 2024, is the deadline for Periodical mailers to file postal statements digitally.

After that date, hard-copy statements will not be accepted unless your post office is too small to have PostalOne functionality (see list in last month's Publisher). All other Periodical mailers will need to file forms using Postal Wizard or postal software. A training slideshow showing how to get onto the BCG and use the Postal Wizard can be downloaded at <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/10958>.

Mark your calendars for **FEBRUARY 12, 2024**. That's the deadline for all entries in the OPA's Better Newspaper Contest to be submitted online and in the mail.

It's also the deadline for entries in the OPA Magazine Contest, Joseph H. Edwards Outdoor Writer of the Year and Ray Lokey Memorial Award for Excellence in Reporting. Nominations for the ONF Beachy Musselman and OPA's Quarter and Half Century Clubs also must be received by February 12. Rules and information on this year's contests and nomination forms will be mailed to members later this month.

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From the President

By Sheila Gay

Publisher of the Woodward News • OPA President 2023-2024



This weekend, I attended one of our best concerts that our Pregnancy Center has been a part of. They paired with local talent that host a Christmas show called “Hollidays with the Castors & Friends.” It was just this collaboration of togetherness and I was very much entrenched in the overall success and entertainment of the night.

When I attend or am a part of the events, community comes to mind and reminds me how awesome it is that we get to be a part of that as a newspaper industry in so many ways! It warms my heart! As part of the newspaper, we get to become a part of events, board members in organizations, asked for our insight and sometimes even a fun MC when asked.

I have loved every aspect of the news and I feel that shows through to our communities when we step up by showing support.

So, as we move forward to 2024 and leave 2023 behind us, let’s think of our community and how we play a part of moving it forward in the next year.

Sheila Gay’s rendition of Clement C. Moore’s poem, “A Visit from St. Nicholas”

*Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through the News, everyone
was a bustle no time for Christmas blues.
Only the NEWS staff would know if
there would be snow.
Reporters raced to and fro
against the clock,
Writing about a disturbance right up
the block.
Beating the deadline in the nick of
time,
Rachael jumped up and shouted
“It’s holiday time!”
Johnny was starting to boil and
ready to vent,
“Where are the stories and ads to be
sent?”
He paced the office floor in agitation,
making threats to retire and live in
isolation.
Sheila was full of Christmas delight,
plaguing her staff with Christmas
fright as Newsie the Elf appeared
overnight.
We had just one more reader to
please.
And handled their subscription with
such speed and ease.
Sara and Rameses were waiting for
ads to appear,
Each had a deadline to adhere.
Awaiting their proofs to complete
their tasks,*

*While hoping to clear desks of
chaotic stacks.
When out in the garage we heard
such a commotion.
Johnny sprang from his chair and
dashed with one quick motion.
When all of a sudden a jolly and
friendly fellow appeared.
He was quick and had all this gear.
He gave us a wink and off to the
back he went.
As if he had a something in mind,
some kind of intent.
He was beaming with pride,
As we all rushed to his side.
“I love what you do with your newspaper
here.”
“Today and all throughout the year!”
As he left with his copy and drove
out of site.
We heard, “Merry Christmas to all
and to all a good night!”*

Merry Christmas All! See you in 2024!



OPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Thur., January 11, 2024 GROW NEWS ADVERTISING REVENUE WITH BRANDED CONTENT

Learn from The Branded Content Project team about how small and medium-sized newsrooms can grow new advertising revenue with branded content.

Mon., January 15, 2024 ONF HOST NEWSPAPER INTERNSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications for the 2023 paid summer internship program are now available. The deadline for host newspaper applications is Jan. 15 and student applications are due Feb. 15. The program is made possible by a grant from the Inasmuch Foundation.

Thur., February 8, 2024 LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT AT STATE CAPITOL

Publishers and editors are encouraged to join us at the State Capitol on February 8 for the annual Legislative Summit.

Mon., February 12, 2024 CONTEST & AWARDS DEADLINE

OPA’s Better Newspaper Contest rules will be sent to members in late December. The deadline to enter the contest is February 12. That deadline also applies to the Magazine Contest, ONF Ray Lokey Memorial Award for Excellence in Reporting, the ONF Joseph H. Edwards Outdoor Writer of the Year Award, the ONF Beachy Musselman Award and the OPA’s Quarter and Half Century Club.

JUNE 7-8, 2024 OPA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

OPA Board of Directors reviews five member applications at board meeting

The OPA Board of Directors reviewed five membership applications during its Dec. 7 meeting. The applications were tentatively approved, pending completion of a successful protest period.

The Edmond Way has applied for a general news media membership. The community news publication began as a website, theedmondway.com, in October 2020 and added a weekly newspaper on Oct. 26, 2023. The application was submitted by owner/publisher Rochelle Stidham, who also owns the Guthrie News Leader, an OPA legal newspaper member.

Investigate Midwest has applied for Affiliate News Media membership. The organization, previously known as The Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting, is an independent, nonprofit newsroom whose website is investigatemitwest.com. Its mission is to serve the public as a watchdog over influential corporations and institutions through investigative

journalism on mostly agribusiness topics. The application was submitted by owner/editor Erin Orr, who is based in Illinois, but reporter Ben Felder is based in Oklahoma.

Akeya Barre submitted an application for individual professional membership. Barre films school sport game videos and posts them on his website at abeezysportsX.com. He lives in Tulsa.

Mental Health Association Oklahoma submitted an application for Strategic Partner membership. The non-profit organization works to promote mental health, prevent suicide, end homelessness and transform the justice system. Its office is in Oklahoma City and website is mhaok.org. The application was submitted by Adi McCasland, MHAOK communications and media director.

Phillips Theological Seminary also applied for Strategic Partner membership. The non-profit offers graduate theological education and training for students across the U.S. Its

office is in Tulsa and website is ptstulsa.edu. The application was submitted by Kurt Gwartney, senior director of communications, who also serves as director of FOI Oklahoma.

Written protests to any of the five membership applications must be received at the OPA by January 9, 2024. Protests may be emailed to OPA Executive Vice President Mark Thomas at mthomas@okpress.com, faxed to (405) 499-0048, or mailed to Oklahoma Press Association, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

Any current member filing a written protest will be entitled to be heard by the Board of Directors at its next scheduled meeting on the afternoon of February 8, 2024, at the State Capitol.

Information and application forms for OPA's membership classifications may be found at okpress.com/join. Lists of current members may be found at okpress.com/members.

The Oklahoma Publisher

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You've Got Questions!

- 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
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OG&E PHOTO CONTEST



East Central's Claudia Garcia (16) and Abbie Morris (10) battle with a pair of Oklahoma Baptist defenders for the ball in action earlier this year at Tiger Field.

Photo by RICHARD BARRON, The Ada News, October, 31, 2023



Meeker's Manny Saavedra pulls in a touchdown pass in the end zone.

Photo by BRIAN BLANSETT, The Lincoln County News, October 5, 2023

OCTOBER 2023
DAILY, SEMI- AND
TRI-WEEKLY WINNER:

**RICHARD
BARRON**

The Ada News

OCTOBER 2023
WEEKLY WINNER:

**BRIAN
BLANSETT**

*The Lincoln
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*The OGE Photo Contest
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View all winning photos
and contest rules at
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Ferguson honored as distinguished alumni



Larry Ferguson shares remarks with the audience after being honored as a Distinguished Alumni of OU's journalism college.

(Photo by OU.)

Each year, the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma recognizes those who make the college exceptionally remarkable.

Since 1984, the Gaylord College Alumni Association (GCAA) selects several alumni who, through their career paths, have made foundational contributions with groundbreaking work in their fields.

Among those honored at this year's event, held November 15, was Larry Ferguson.

Ferguson, Class of 1960, serves as publisher of The Cleveland American, The Hominy News-Progress and The Pawnee Chief. He extended his public service in Oklahoma serving with the Oklahoma State School

Board Association and for 20 years served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

"Through Larry's myriad of career experience, he has paved a way for aspiring journalists and politically interested young men and women across Oklahoma," the awards presenter said.

Other Distinguished Alumni honored at the event were Brenda Jones Barwick, Jeff Hickman, Baxter Holmes and Dr. Mautra Stayley Jones.

Each honored graduate was celebrated with a short video highlighting the lasting influence they continue to have. Students from Gaylord Hall Productions worked over the past months filming, editing and producing the videos showcased during the dinner.

Tahlequah Press switches e-editions into new format

December 1 marked the final digital-only editions of the Tahlequah Daily Press.

Several years ago, the TDP eliminated its Wednesday and Friday print editions, but designed and published "e-editions" on those days as well as on print days. The decision to eliminate print days was made because of the rising cost of newsprint.

An editorial explaining the decision to evolve the e-editions into a new format said, "Newspaper companies always looked at the e-editions as sort of a 'bridge.' Once readers were accustomed to getting news digitally, and online, the intention was to phase these out, but to provide that same information on our websites."

Readers will still find the same amount of content, if not more, because the time spent designing digital pages will now be used to produce more content.

"We believe readers are far more concerned with content than page design, so the trade-off seems pragmatic, and beneficial to everyone concerned," the editorial said.

E-editions on Tuesday, Thursday and the weekend will continue to be produced since the files used for print are the same ones used for the e-editions.

"The method of delivery may change, but we will still offer you the content you want and need," stated the editorial.

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Okmulgee Times hosts sweet holiday tradition

The Okmulgee Times held its third annual Cookie Crawl on November 25.

The Cookie Crawl was the brainchild of Katina Holland, general manager of the Okmulgee Times.

"I came up with the idea while watching Christmas movies of all things," said Holland.

Holland was looking for a way to encourage people to shop locally instead of going to larger towns to do their shopping.

Cookies seemed the perfect way to lure shoppers into stores.

Clients who participate in the Cookie Crawl hand out one cookie to customers who walk in with a box provided by the Okmulgee Times. At the end of the shopping day, customers have a box full of unique cookies.

Each participant receives an ad in the Okmulgee Times and their location is marked on a map printed prior to the event.

"The businesses have told us that while not everyone buys something when they come in for a cookie, most of

them make at least one purchase," said Holland.

Businesses provide their own cookies, either homemade or store bought.

Holland asked each participant to have 60 cookies on hand this year to match the 60 boxes passed out at the Okmulgee Times.

"We also have them package the cookies individually and encourage them to attach a sticker or their business card so by the time the customers get home, they still know where the cookie came from," she said.

The event, which ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., began at the Okmulgee Times office where participants pick up their cookie box.

"We always put our cookie inside the box so when they pick up they already have one to start," Holland said.

Holland, who bakes desserts as a side business, donates the cookies passed out by the newspaper.

This year 25 businesses participated in the Cookie Crawl.

"Our clients absolutely LOVE this event," said Holland. "I had some asking me

Here is the official map of the Third Annual Okmulgee Times Cookie Crawl! Stop by each business with your Cookie Crawl box, available at the Okmulgee Times office, on Shop Small Saturday to receive a cookie from each participating business!

Okmulgee TIMES

Okmulgee Times Cookie Crawl 2023

MORE COOKIES!
HEAD NORTH ON WOOD DRIVE FOR NEAL'S HOMESTORE AND
HEAD SOUTH FOR THE SPOT & CENTRAL PERK!

2 Breke Girls Boutique Peanut Butter Cookies @ 106 S Morton Avenue	All For You Hair Salon No-Bake Chocolate Cookies @ 218 E 6th Street	Anchor Financial Pumpkin White Chocolate @ Okmulgee Times
Arby's Salted Caramel or Reese's PB @ 129 S Wood Drive	Central Perk Espresso Cookies @ 113 W 6th Street	Flowers on Main Oatmeal Cookies @ 307 W 6th Street
Funky Blessings Apple Cider @ 102 E 6th Street	Jackson Hewitt Mystery Cookies @ 423 E 8th Street	Kush Up Mystery Cookies @ 423 E 8th Street
Laci's Nutrition Shoppe Chocolate Chip Cookies @ 205 W 7th Street	Landmark For All Gen... Mixed Cookies @ 210 N Wood Drive	MainStreet Customz Tea Cake Cookies @ 100 E 7th Street
Miss Mary's Market Homemade Cookies @ 114 W 8th Street	Neal's Homestore Snickerdoodles @ 2825 Hwy 75 N	OCHS Thrift Store Triple Chocolate Cookies @ 222 E 6th Street
OK Staudt Jewelers Sam's Cookies @ 113 W 6th Street	Okmulgee Main Street White Chocolate Cranberry @ Okmulgee Times	Okmulgee Times Christmas Crinkles @ 320 W 6th Street
Shelter Insurance Assorted Homemade Cookies @ 220 S Muskogee Avenue	Simple Simon's Pizza Sugar Cookies @ 520 N Wood Drive	The Spot Sugar Cookies @ 924 S Wood Drive
Truly Yours Peanut Brittle @ 113 E 6th Street	Wonderfully Made White Chocolate Cherry Oatmeal @ 123 E 6th Street	Ye Olde Lamp Post Mystery Cookies @ 113 S Grand Avenue

in August if were doing the Cookie Crawl again this year because they enjoyed participating so much."

Businesses that participate praise the event and say the amount of sales they receive for the one day exceeds the

cost of their newspaper ad and the cookies.

"I have one business who has participated all three years. She told me it was the best day of sales she has had each year! It just amazes me to hear something like that, but it's so exciting, too!," said Holland.

"I didn't know you had this!"

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Got News?

Share news about your newspaper with other OPA members! Send your news or story ideas to aanderson@okpress.com or call 405-499-0020

Wesner Publications purchases Durant Democrat from Swearengin

Matt Swearengin, owner and editor of the Durant Democrat, recently announced the sale of the newspaper to Wesner Publications Company.

The company also publishes the Bristow News, Cordell Beacon, Lincoln County News, Walters Herald and Watonga Republican in Oklahoma as well as other publications in New Mexico and Texas.

Swearengin will continue in his role as editor. Brett Wesner, president of Wesner Publications, will serve as publisher.

After graduating from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Swearengin began his newspaper career in 1996 with the Bryan County Star, which was once owned by his late parents, Bob and B.L. Swearengin.

Matt was hired by the Durant Democrat in 1997 as a reporter and photographer. He was promoted to senior staff



writer in 2001 and to managing editor in 2008.

In October 2020, Swearengin bought the newspaper from Graystone Media.

Swearengin said he is looking forward to working with the Wesner Group.

"There will not be any changes in what I have been doing in the community since 1996," said Swearengin. "I now will have more time to focus on the things that I love to do, and that is covering community news."

Brett Wesner founded his Oklahoma publishing company in 1988. A native of Cordell, he served as press secretary to U.S. Senator David Boren during Boren's

service as the chairman of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee and as a member of the committee holding the Iran-Contra hearings.

Wesner now publishes community newspapers in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico, and he has served as the chair of the National Newspaper Association.

"As a family-owned Oklahoma-based publishing company, we hope to support Matt's efforts to make the Democrat an even stronger community-builder," Wesner said.

"Durant is an incredibly dynamic place, and we want to be a part of building its future."

Journal Record names Bennett as editor



James Bennett recently joined the staff of The Journal Record as editor.

Bennett, a veteran journalist, was most recently managing editor of The Dallas Express, a 24-7 digital news site in the Dallas metroplex.

Bennett has been a journalist for more than 45 years, starting as a high school sportswriter in his hometown of Cookeville, Tennessee.

"James' experience and digital savvy will be a great addition to an already talented team at The Journal Record," said Jason Thomas, content lead in the business division at BridgeTower Media.

"His intuition for coverage that will help our readers grow their businesses and his engaging personality are a perfect fit for Oklahoma. I look forward to James guiding The Journal Record to new heights."

NNA names Lisa McGraw to succeed Tonda Rush

The National Newspaper Association announced Lisa McGraw will succeed Tonda Rush as the new public policy manager.

McGraw, Michigan Press Association's longtime Public Affairs Manager and NNA Congressional Action Team member, will take over the

NNA's lobbying efforts on January 1, 2024.

Rush, who managed the association's public policy and postal efforts for 30 years, will stay on behind the scenes as legal counsel and consultant.

"It was with a mix of excitement and sorrow that I informed NNA's Board of Directors this fall that the time

for the next step in my retirement has come," Rush said in an email to NNA members.

Prior to working with MPA, McGraw held several positions in the Michigan State Senate, including Chief of Staff for a Senate office, director of strategic research for the Republican Caucus and Senate administrator.



Learn the best practices for Public Notices at okpress.com/public-notice-training

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

New office assistant joins staff of The Ringling Eagle

Savannah Britt has joined the staff of The Ringling Eagle as its new office assistant.

Britt is a 2003 graduate of Healdton High School and has experience in customer service, data entry, document retrieval and office operations.

She is also the older sister to The Ringling Eagle's office manager, Skyler Worley.

"I am so excited that Savannah has joined our staff," said Worley. "She has such an out-going personality, with a huge work ethic and an even bigger heart. I am thrilled to be working with my sister; not everyone gets that opportunity and I feel so blessed."



The Ringling Eagle office staff: Skyler Worley and Savannah Britt.

Britt and her husband, Cecil, have four children.

"I am very excited for the opportunity to work for The Ringling Eagle, and I can't wait to see what the future holds with this new chapter in my life," said Britt.

1 in 5 kids

experiences secondhand smoke at home.

The impact? 300,000 kids in Oklahoma suffer respiratory issues, including bronchitis, pneumonia and even asthma attacks annually. **That's not OK.**



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The Ardmoreite: a look at 130 years of history



Looking Them Over

by Rod Serfoss
rserfoss@okpress.com

The Ardmoreite celebrated 130 years of delivering the news with a special section on Oct. 29. The newspaper made its initial appearance in Ardmore on Oct. 28, 1893, and was the first daily newspaper in Indian Territory.

ARDMORE
HEARING AID (580) 223-7771
SERVICE 903 Grand Ave.

The Ardmoreite
Published October 29, 2023
Celebrating 130 years of community news

Michelin announces closure of Ardmore plant
City, county officials shocked by Michelin decision

Caught off guard
City, county officials shocked by Michelin decision

Halloween happenings
Local residents celebrate with costumes and pumpkins

announcing its decision to close its Ardmore tire making plant that employed approximately 1,400 people.

While that is big news, it was only the first of many stories *The Ardmoreite* wrote as they dug deep to find out who knew what and when, and the impact the layoffs would have on families and the community.

Stories included how the city council was caught off guard and shocked by Michelin's decision, to a two-part series headlined "Economic development under the spotlight" and "ADA revamping industry recruiting efforts" that detailed what the Ardmore Development Authority is planning in the wake of Michelin's decision. It even wrote about how the loss of Michelin's \$60,000 to \$100,000 in annual donations will impact local nonprofits.

Well done.

In a single November issue, the *Muskogee Phoenix* did an excellent job of reporting on eight area football games and a pair of college basketball games. But it didn't stop there. For older sports people, it also had a hunting story about how quail numbers are surging in

Oklahoma, fishing reports from nine area lakes and local bowling scores that listed the names of more than 100 people that had competed.

An avid sports fan in his mid-60s recently told me that he doesn't read the lengthy play-by-play story of Friday night's high school game because he didn't know anyone that was playing. He said once his kids and their friends all graduated, he stopped reading about local sports. "All I want are the stats and the final score in case I left the game early or fell asleep listening to it. The rest I get by being at the game or watching the live stream on TV. If you want to make me and all my friends happy, cover things at the golf course, bowling alley and trap shooting competition at the gun club."

By expanding coverage to include adult activities, like the *Phoenix* does, more people will be lured into the newspaper because those athletes are covered far longer than the four years they spend in high school.

The Freedom Call celebrated its 102nd birthday last month. Located in a northwest Oklahoma town with a current population of 176, and has never reached 400 residents, the community has a newspaper it can be proud of.

The Call regularly has more than 20 pictures, many stories covering a wide range of events and a very good variety of advertisers that support the paper and the town.

On the front page there was a list of what organizations have scheduled. The list included when the Freedom Museum, Chamber of Commerce, Town Hall, School Board and Food Pantry all meet, when the Town Hall is open and its phone number, and the Christ-

mas Town/Chamber Schedule that included Light Judging, and Santa Days.

Readers also got to see the names of 25 people that had a birthday coming up the next week.

The Freedom Call

Volume 102 Number 41
The Freedom Call, Freedom, Oklahoma - \$1.00
November 5, 2023

BRUNY DAVEY
Guest Columnist: Musicians in the West

102 Years Old
The Freedom Call Celebrates 102 Years

Freedom Museum
November 20th, 2023 5pm

Freedom Museum
November 20th, 2023 5pm

Freedom Museum
November 20th, 2023 5pm

Freedom Museum
November 20th, 2023 5pm

The recent headline "Only in Freedom" grabbed my attention – just like a good headline is supposed to do – and the story exceeded my expectation.

"People eating their dinner on Saturday night last week got to witness a man riding a cow down Main Street, past the Chophouse windows.

"It was a special cow, and we all know that from time to time Even Burkhart is for sure a Special Freedom Resident."

This is hometown reporting at its best!

TOP FIVE HEADLINES:

5. **No one told us life was gonna be this way**
– The Madill Record
4. **It worked!**
– The (Inola) Independent
3. **Barbies behind bars**
– Sequoyah County Times
2. **Holidays become less fun with in-laws around**
– The Lawton Constitution
1. **My gun is better than your gun**
– Stillwater News Press

Rod Serfoss, OPA Business Consultant, looks over OPA member publications for a monthly column, "Looking Them Over." To contact Serfoss, email rserfoss@okpress.com.

MUSKOGEE Phoenix
muskogee-phenix.com

WEDNESDAY November 8, 2023
Click from Muskogee Young League childhood dinner above

AI not ready for prime time in mental health care, experts say

THE RISE OF AI

Muskogee battles with Stillwater

Find out who's at STEAM Center dinner

Give a great gift plus antivirus roundup 2023



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

If you have a new computer, make sure to put a USB-C adapter on your Christmas wish list.

Some good brands to look for are Anker, Iogear, Ugreen and Mokin.

Before you buy one, make sure you know what is needed. Always look for ones that have 4K video USB-C to HDMI adapter and a gigabyte RJ45 ethernet port. This will let you add an extra monitor, and increase your internet speed.

You also want to make sure the adapter has USB-3 ports that go 5Gbps. This makes older USB-3 hard drives run fast on that new computer. Some of them also have a USB-C charging port, which is always a plus.

The next thing on the wish list is a new monitor to run vertically next to your regular monitor. This setup is great for proofreading as well as building pages.

Look for a monitor with good resolution: 2560 X 1440 to 3840 X 2160. Asus, View-Sonic and Acer all make good ones that run between \$200 to \$400.

Acer has a 27" UHD 3840 X 2160 display resolution, 99% sRGB color accuracy, and an adjustable stand that

tilts, swivels and pivots, and comes with USB Type-C and HDMI Ports. It's the cat's meow for \$230 before taxes.

CLOUD BACKUP

If you think you're covered completely with cloud storage, think again. Cloud storage can have problems and still needs some backup.

Many people think they are safe with their files in cloud storage like Google Drive or Microsoft OneDrive. But things can go wrong. Data loss can happen due to user error. For example, trashed critical files not caught in the 24-day grace period are gone. And ownership and permissions within a shared drive can cause loss of rights to the data if a user leaves.

Google Drive backup and sync is a good tool if the computer using it has enough drive space to hold all the online files. But if the host computer has a ransomware attack, things get complicated fast as it is always copying files to the cloud.

Several backup programs can back up that huge drive to another place as often as needed. Google offers several tools for free. But if you're interested in never losing those files, look at a program like Acronis. It offers full featured backups. While it's not cheap, a good night's rest can be had knowing everything is safe.

Spanning offers a complete

backup service. Google's Workspace backup program is another one to look at.

Then there is always the old school method of backing up to an external hard drive. Drag and drop still works for free. Put the drive in a safe and it's a great archive.

SPLASH SCREENS

If you've ever had a pop-up window show up on your screen that won't let you close it with the escape key or force quit, here's what to do.

First try shutting down the computer by holding down the button on the CPU for five seconds. Then restart and see if it is gone. If it is, run a full scan of your antivirus on the computer.

Then go to the web browser that had the pop up screen. Go to **Setting/Preferences** and look for a way to reset the program. In Chrome, it is at the bottom on the left side of settings. In Safari, hold down shift key while starting and then clear the history under **File**. Then go to Preferences under file, then to **Privacy > Manage Website Data**. Clear all website data.

Let the program work and finish clearing. It may hold up work for as much as 10 minutes but it's worth it to be sure the computer is safe.

If all of this fails and the popup is still on your Mac, try quitting the process in **Applications > Utilities > Activity**

Monitor. See if you can find the process and stop it. But more drastic steps may need to be taken, such as reinstalling the computer.

On Windows, use **Task Manager** by hitting **Control > Alt > Delete** then right click the problem file and go to **End Task**.

Never call the number on the screen. And never give out bank account numbers to anyone.

Parallels Toolbox is now a player in the area of cleaning up problem viruses on Macs.

For free on both platforms there is Bit Defender (bitdefender.com), Avira (avira.com), Avast (avast.com/en-us), Total AV (totalav.com/free-antivirus-software-2), Malwarebytes (malwarebytes.com) and AVG (avg.com/en-us). Make sure you download from the websites that offer the programs, not anywhere else.

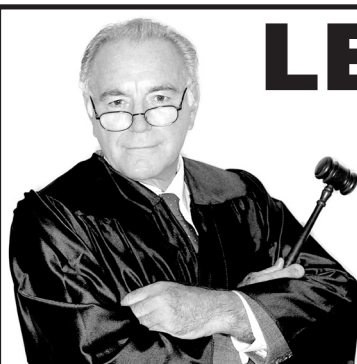
You need to run this type of software if you notice any of these problems on your computer:

- It **suddenly** slows down with everyday work
- New toolbars start showing up in web browsers you didn't install
- Web searching goes to unexpected places
- Popups suddenly appear on all web pages
- Advertising windows not started by any program popup on the desktop

It's time to get real about cleaning the computer in some way. We have had good computers go down due to viruses. Viruses can corrupt the RAM memory as well as stop the hard drive or kill the board.

Don't just let little annoying things go as they can quickly become big.

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.**

Susan Huser Carter
November 4, 2022

Stephen F. Bentley
November 4, 2022

William J. 'Bill' Ross
November 17, 2022

Wilma Jackson
November 27, 2022

John 'Kyle' Goddard
December 10, 2022

Kenneth 'Ken' A. Jagers
December 20, 2022.

William Alvin Oliver
December 22, 2022

DEATHS

ARTHUR FREDERICK 'FREDDIE' MONTANA,

former circulation manager for the Vinita Daily Journal, died December 2, 2023. He was 83.

Montana was born September 10, 1940, in Sacramento, California. He received his bachelor's degree in graphic arts at San Francisco State College.

Montana and his wife, Jennifer Jo Carter, moved to Vinita in December 1983.

Freddie served as circulation manager for the Vinita Daily Journal for 20 years before retiring in 2007.

He was active in the community, was a well-respected baseball umpire and volun-

teered at the Eastern Trail Museum in Vinita.

Montana is survived by his wife Jo, of the home; daughter Kendra McGeady of Vinita; brother Raymond Hennessey of Ventura, California; sister Clara Montana of Santa Barbara, California; and one grandson.

PHIL PARRISH, former Tulsa World sports editor, died De- cember 11, 2023. He was 86.

Parrish spent more than 40 years covering sports for the World. He retired in 2002.

He joined the staff in 1959 and served under then World sports editor Bill Connors. When Parrish succeeded Connors in 1993, he became the third person to have served as World sports editor in the last 70 years.

Parrish moved to Tulsa from his native Chicago to

take over as editor of the Tulsa County News while finishing college at the University of Tulsa.

Before joining the World, he was sports editor at the Lawton Morning Press and The Norman Transcript.

Parrish was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2007. He was also a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Professional Journalists' Oklahoma Pro Chapter.

Three of Parrish's five surviving children and numerous nephews worked alongside him at the World. His daughter Ashley left as an assistant managing editor in 2019 and son-in-law Michael Overall as a staff writer and columnist in 2023.

Parrish is survived by his wife, Claudia; three sons, Michael, Phillip Jr. and Jeremy; two daughters, Dawn Wood and Ashley Parrish; six grandchildren and 11 great- and great-great-grandchildren.

MARTHA ELIZABETH SULLIVAN, who owned The Sentinel Leader with her daughter Jolene Wolfenbarger, died November 27, 2023. She was 92.

Martha was born in Canyon, Texas, on March 30,

1931, and later moved with her family to Sentinel.

She married Kenneth Sullivan on September 24, 1949.

Martha and Jolene published The Sentinel Leader for 23 years, from 1999 to 2022.

Martha was a member of the NE Church of Christ

where she taught children's classes for many years.

She is survived by her daughter Jolene and son Kim, both of Sentinel; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OCTOBER WINNERS

Editorial: **JEFF FUNK**, *Enid News & Eagle*

Column: **CONNIE BURCHAM**, *Watonga Republican*

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

JEFF FUNK, *Enid News & Eagle*

Better answers needed for high-risk school crossings

The tragic death of school crossing guard Dan Luskey this past week calls into question how schools and law enforcement handle the everyday potential for problems where young children and vehicles are using the same sections of public streets at the same time.

Luskey, 61, had been a school paraprofessional, substitute teacher and crossing guard at various schools in Enid. He also was a part-time pastor, and he enjoyed working with children, often dressing up in character to entertain children while delivering a message. His engaging personality and character made his death especially painful. However, the details of the accident leading to Luskey's death were not all that extraordinary, meaning a closer look is needed at these high-risk situations.

Luskey was a crossing guard standing in a crosswalk

in the middle of an intersection outside Enid's Glenwood Elementary School when a pickup driven by Roberto Cruz-Lopez turned the corner, striking him. Luskey fell backwards, hit his head and sustained critical brain injuries. He was taken off life support three days later.

Cruz-Lopez, although he had a horrendous record of driving infractions, was moving only about 5 to 7 mph at the time of the accident, police said. Literally hundreds of vehicles go through that same intersection at similar or faster speeds during school zone hours every day. The potential for accidents is huge.

There is no perfect fix to this risky situation, but Enid Public Schools, city of Enid and Enid Police Department wisely set about finding solutions with a meeting Tuesday, both listening to and reassuring other school crossing guards.

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

CONNIE BURCHAM, *Watonga Republican*

A Bubble off Plumb

I'm sure there are a boatload of John Wayne fans out there. We love the Duke in all his incarnations. When I was a kid, the Cowboys came out. I'd read the Dale Jennings book long before and loved the story and the adventure. That was, of course, before I spent a lot of days in the saddle pushing cattle where they didn't want to go. The romance was still intact.

When rancher Wil Andersen, mortally wounded and with his next to last breath, says "Well, summer's over," I thought then it was about the end of the calendar season and the cattle drive.

Now I know better. It was about the boys growing up and becoming young men. You see, I am at the end of my own summer. My baby boy is turning 21 and it breaks my heart.

On one hand, I am so grateful he has made it to the recognized age of adulthood without falling victim to violence, alcohol or drug abuse or auto accidents. I'm delighted he is making his own way, lives on his own in a faraway place doing a job he really enjoys. But I also look back at the little boy who walked the

streets of the town where he now lives, holding his daddy's hand and wearing identical boots, denim shirt, suspenders and straw hat. I don't know where he went. I think of the baby with first birthday cake smeared on his face and super puppy onesie. How is it that the baby is now 6'5" and has a beard? I never gave permission for that. Or maybe I did, without knowing what I was doing.

We as parents taught him how to think, not what to think. He loves the laws and sovereignty of the United States, but he still has compassion on people who risk their lives to come to this country. He has the ability to see two or more sides of an argument. He loves his sisters and his nephews. He would just as soon spend time in the library as the woods, his two favorite places. I wonder if that's from getting up from his home-school desk to run outside to play, creating a dual love of books and wildlands.

He is an avid gamer, but not to addiction. I wonder if he learned that because we set and stuck to time limits on his gaming as a youngster.



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The October Oklahoma Natural Gas Column and Editorial Contest was judged by a member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

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2. Entries may also be emailed (full-page tearsheet) to amartin@okpress.com. Include the author's name, name of publication, date of publication and category entered (column or editorial).
3. All entries for the previous month must be at the OPA office by the 15th of the current month.
4. Only ONE editorial and/or ONE column per writer per month will be accepted.
5. Winners will receive a Certificate of Achievement, a \$100 check and the column or editorial may be published in The Oklahoma Publisher. Annual Sweepstakes winners will receive a plaque, a \$200 check and may have the column or editorial published in The Publisher.

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