

OPA hosts NAM members in OKC

The 101st Annual Summer Conference of Newspaper Association Managers (NAM) was held July 30-August 2 in Oklahoma City.

Press association managers from 32 states were represented at the meeting hosted by the Oklahoma Press Association.

In addition to the unique opportunity to discuss common issues, managers had the opportunity to explore parts of Oklahoma City.

The group stayed at the historic Hilton Skirvin Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City.

Events included a visit to the Oklahoma City National Memorial, dinner and tour at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, and a visit to the Oklahoma Press Association office.

"This was truly a NAM conference to remember. And it set the bar quite high for our future events," said Layne Bruce, executive director of the Mississippi Association and NAM Clerk.

Mark Thomas, executive vice president of the Oklahoma Press Association, said, "It was an honor to host NAM in Oklahoma City. We learn how to create value for members and navigate difficult times together."



Members of Newspaper Association Managers pose in front of The End of the Trail statue at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. The group met in Oklahoma City for their 101st Annual Summer Conference.

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From the President

By Shauna Belyeu

Publisher of the Eufaula Indian Journal • OPA President 2024-2025



Planes, trains and rented automobiles

The end of summer was rapidly approaching, and I realized that if I was going to find time to break away, I had found the one perfect week. The move to the new office was complete, we were between special sections and all employees were accounted for.

I planned on extending a day on either end of the week-end and could still be back to help get the next papers out. My daughter and I were off for a mini vacation. The plan was to totally unplug. For any of you newspaper folk, you know how hard that can be. You have to resist the urge to take a quick peek even though everything was crossed off the list and all plans were in place.

By the second day, it got easier to leave that phone alone.

My blood pressure and cortisol levels began to drop.

I had no idea what time was, and it mattered less and less.

It was a nice little getaway, until it wasn't.

We flew back to the Atlanta airport, loaded on the Plane Train and began to hear the scuttlebutt about canceled flights and stranded passengers. Unbeknownst to us, the "largest IT outage in history" caused by a flawed software update had affected airports around the world.

The blue screen of death was the sure sign of technological failure. We were now victims of the CrowdStrike chaos that struck the day we landed for our vacation, and we were blissfully unaware.

Delta was one of the hardest hit, scrubbing 1,700 flights as we were traveling home that Sunday.

There were more than 4,000 flight cancellations and 35,500 flight delays worldwide, according to flight tracking.

The lines coiled through the main terminal as angry passengers tried to rebook a flight that wouldn't take off for another three days.

We visited with so many people who had been stranded at the airport.

One was an 87-year-old veteran who was trying to board his Honor Flight before it was canceled. Another was a young mother who had a baby in one hand and a three-year-old in a stroller. She had been stranded for three days.

We visited with a man about to celebrate his 40th birthday in Greece as a surprise from his wife. The surprise was on them both as they shared a seat at our table at the food court as we were all trying to find any alternative flights. No comparison to Greece, I assure you.

I quickly realized that we were late to this party as the people who had already been stranded in the airport for three days before us were priority to get a flight out.

We started looking for car rentals and found one last car available. It was a black Jeep. I would have settled for an orange Pinto at that point if it could get us out of Atlanta before the sun came up.

As we stood in line for the

car rental, I heard my favorite story of all.

I was visiting with the lady at the car rental desk about having to get back to get the paper out. The man behind me asked which paper. I told him Eufaula, Oklahoma.

"Oh, the Oklahoma Press Association with Mark Thomas," he said.

To my surprise, my last conversation at the airport would be the best.

I met a publisher from Illinois. He said their press association discusses the OPA and how we set a high standard. We all know that but how exciting to hear it from another state.

On my news hiatus, airports shut down, a presidential candidate withdrew their candidacy and a hydrothermal explosion happened at Yellowstone National Park.

Equally as newsworthy is the fact that Mark Thomas and the Oklahoma Press Association are working hard to protect our interests, promote us all and are setting the standard for press associations nationwide.

Transportation could shut down at any minute and we might not know who the next leader of the country will be, but rest assured the Oklahoma Press Association is working hard to protect our best interests, promote the news industry and do it in a manner that sets the standard across the country. That's as exciting as catching the last Jeep out of Atlanta at midnight.

OPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information on upcoming events visit

okpress.com/events

Thur., September 12 DIGITAL MARKETING FUNDAMENTALS: ENHANCING YOUR CLIENT'S ONLINE PRESENCE

In this comprehensive webinar, Michael Lewis will delve into the core aspects of digital marketing, providing valuable insights and practical tips to boost your client's business online presence.

Thur., September 26 NA WEBINAR: ADOBE INDESIGN: FROM ZERO TO HERO!

In this fast-paced session, Kevin Slimp will take attendees through the very basics to advanced skills. Even beginners will walk away from this class an InDesign hero!

Thur., October 31 OKLAHOMA JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS DUE

The Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame honors 9 to 12 individuals each year in the areas of print, broadcast and online journalism. Nominations must be submitted for consideration by the Hall of Fame's selection committee. Letters of support from members of the community and industry provide additional weight to nominations.

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

aanderson@okpress.com
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RWPG acquires Lewis County Press

Reaves & Williams Publishing Group (RWPG) recently announced the acquisition of Lewis County Press.

The sale includes two Oklahoma newspapers — the Blackwell Journal-Tribune and The Marlow Review.

The company currently owns newspapers and businesses in Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as various websites and podcasts.

RWPG is a family-run business. At the helm are Clarissa Reaves-Williams, who has more than 35 years of media experience, and her husband

Herbert Williams, who has nearly 30 years of business experience. The Williams' son, Cameron, serves as chief technology officer. Their daughter, Bethany, will be the company's chief strategy officer. Serving as chief financial officer is Greg McNutt.

Clarissa and Herbert Williams believe that the most important parts of a newspaper are mirroring the community it serves, being a watchdog for the readers, and holding the government accountable, regardless of party affiliation. Both have long tenures in community involvement. They

also own Shine Messengers, a Christian-based company, and Cookeville Now, which includes a YouTube channel and podcast dedicated to uplifting content and community stories.

Reaves & Williams Publishing Group, headquartered in Tennessee, is committed to combining traditional print media with cutting-edge digital strategies, helping businesses achieve their goals through innovative marketing strategies. Its dedication to preserving the integrity of local news while embracing new technologies sets a strong foundation for future growth.

OPA receives membership application

Absentee Shawnee News has applied for Affiliate News Media membership in OPA. The newspaper, which is owned by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, is printed 12 times per year and its website is astribes.com.

The application was submitted by Mindy Longhorn, media director for the tribe. The business mailing address is 219 E. Walnut, Tecumseh,

OK 74873 and phone is 405-598-1279.

Written protests to a membership application must be received at the OPA by Sept. 10, 2024. Protests may be emailed to OPA Executive Vice President Mark Thomas at mthomas@okpress.com 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.

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.

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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.

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



Two Oklahoma newspapers win NNA contest awards

The National Newspaper Association recently released a list of winners in its 2024 Better Newspaper Editorial Contest.

Two Oklahoma newspapers — Marietta Monitor and Southwest Ledger — received honors in the contest.

The contest received 1,513 entries with 676 awards won by 92 newspapers in 32 states.

The Marietta Monitor received 11 awards including two firsts for Best Non-Profit Feature Story and Best Online Album or Slide Show.

The Monitor placed second in Best Breaking News Photo and Best Sports Story; third in Social Media Journalism and Best Informational Graphic; and Honorable Mention for Best Non-Profile Feature Story, Best Online Album or Slide Show, Best Informational Graphic, Best Front Page

Design and Story Series — Preserving Local History.

The Southwest Ledger won 10 awards. The Ledger placed first for Best Profile Feature Story; Best Business Story; Best Reporting on Local Government; and News and Opinion on Public Corruption.

The Ledger placed second for Best Feature Series and Best Reporting on Local Government; third for Best Editorial and Best Reporting on Local Government; and Honorable Mention for Best Serious Column and Best Investigative or In-Depth Story.

Awards will be presented September 26-27 at the NNAF's 138th Annual Convention and Trade Show in Omaha, Nebraska. For more information or to register for the convention, visit nnaafoundation.org/convention.

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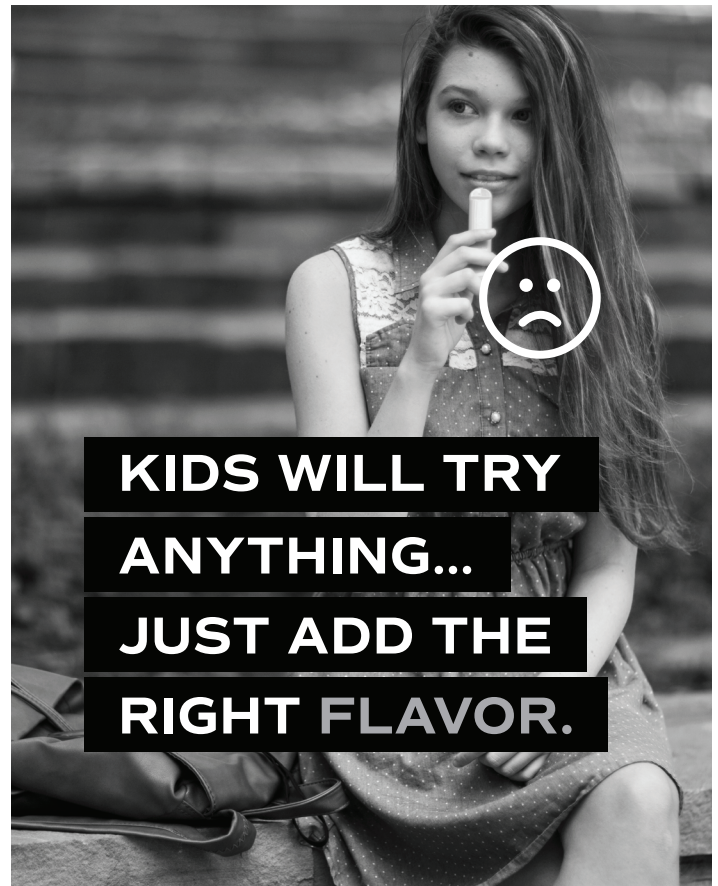
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OU players celebrate winning the WCWS after the Sooners' game against Texas at Devon Park in Oklahoma City.

Photo by KYLE PHILLIPS, The Norman Transcript, June 9, 2024



Left: Joy Alsip is all focus on a pop fly during the annual Chandler softball camp. She made the catch with ease.

Photo by BRIAN BLANSETT, The Lincoln County News, June 6, 2024

JUNE 2024
DAILY, SEMI- AND
TRI-WEEKLY WINNER:

**KYLE
PHILLIPS**

The Norman Transcript

JUNE 2024
WEEKLY WINNER:

**BRIAN
BLANSETT**

The Lincoln County News

*The OGE Photo Contest
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OKLAHOMA NEWSPAPER FOUNDATION

2024 Summer Interns

Thanks to a grant from the Inasmuch Foundation, 18 college students received paid internships at various newspapers and online news organizations across the state.

The internship program, now in its 17th year, is facilitated by the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation.

This month, six interns share their experiences. More will be featured in the September and October issues of *The Oklahoma Publisher*.



BY RAYNEE HOWELL, *Cushing Citizen* — Oklahoma State University



When J.D. Meisner, the publisher for Cimarron Valley Communications, called me an hour after my interview to ask me to be their summer intern, I responded with "Yay!"

Who responds to a job offer with yay? Well, I guess I do. Now in hindsight, I can say "Yay!" was the most appropriate response.

Over the last couple of

“Pitching my own ideas, writing my own column... taught me more about myself, my abilities and how I can improve.”

months, I have gained valuable experience in arguably one of the most important fields of journalism, community journalism.

I've learned it's crucial for small communities who never find themselves in national or even state-wide headlines, to have a local newspaper. Our local papers tell local stories.

For an entire summer, I was a part of the team who got to tell those stories.

From writing profiles on the local election to covering a competitive cheer team winning nationals, I've had the opportunity to do it all. Pitching my own ideas, writing

my own column and covering whatever Allie Prater threw at me taught me more about myself, my abilities and how I can improve.

Thanks are in order to the Oklahoma Press Association, the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation, J.D. and Allie for giving me this opportunity to learn and further my career in journalism. As I enter my last three semesters at OSU, I am bringing my internship experience with me – an experience I wouldn't have without their generosity.

With the small, intimate staff at CVC, I have gotten to know each of my coworkers. DeAnna

Maddox, Sapphire Smith, Allie, J.D. and even Adobe and Typo, the office cats, have helped me put my best foot forward during my limited time here. (I don't know how I would've gotten anything done without Adobe scratching my arm each time she wanted attention.)

From work lunches at Papa Chuy's in Mannford to late night Uno games at the OPA Convention, being a part of CVC makes you feel a part of a community. A community covering communities; that's what it's like writing for the *Cushing Citizen*, *Yale News* and *The Keystone Gusher*.

As a girl from a small town in Oklahoma, it has been a pleasure to write for you, and I hope I did your small towns justice.

Now, I am going to cry and cuddle with the cats one last time.

BY MATTHEW YOKUM, *The Lawton Constitution* — University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma



When my time at The Lawton Constitution started, I was as nervous as could be. I had written for USAO's student newspaper, *The Trend*, but I was starting at a newspaper in a city five times the size of my hometown of Chickasha without any real-world experience. My goal going into the internship was to become a sports journalist, and even though that is still in my career path, I

quickly learned how valuable community journalism is and the impact it can have.

My first time walking into the doors of the Constitution, I felt unprepared to handle the day-to-day work of a newspaper, but thanks to the help of Managing Editor Dee Ann Patterson and the rest of the reporting staff at the Constitution, I felt at home instantly.

In my first week, I was

shocked by how quickly they were getting me involved. I was writing stories my very first day and by day two, I had already gone out to do a story over Meers hamburgers near the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. This story is a highlight of my summer, not only because I ate a delicious hamburger, but because I learned that amazing people could come from

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anywhere, even an abandoned mining town.

Coming into the internship, I had hopes of writing sports stories, but I knew they would be few and far between during the summer. I quickly learned to appreciate the lack of sports, as I got to learn about the Lawton community more with each story I was assigned. I have written advances for community fundraisers, covered stories over the military, sports features, all the way to missing persons cases and anything in between. From this, I

learned how diverse and active the community you work in can be.

For eight weeks I inserted myself in the Lawton community and learned to appreciate every interaction I had as a simple story could turn into an interesting one in a glance. While covering an annual memorial service in remembrance of the Korean War, a man called me over knowing I was with the newspaper and introduced me to a 94-year-old veteran of the Korean War. He had been stationed in Korea with the last all-black regiment in the United States Military, the 24th Infantry Regiment, which disbanded in 1951. Every year the service honors the soldiers

“ In my first week, I was shocked by how quickly they were getting me involved. I was writing stories my very first day...

who made the ultimate sacrifice. Meeting that man and hearing his story was truly unique and shows that everyone has a story to tell.

In my eight weeks at The Lawton Constitution, I learned how to cover community journalism better than I expected. Fellow reporters Kim McConnell and Scott Rains gave me a blueprint on what it means to be a great community

journalist with their passion, work ethic, and involvement in the community. Patterson has given me incredible guidance over the summer, and I feel like I couldn't have found a better fit than the Constitution. The experience and lessons I learned during my time at the Lawton Constitution are priceless and I will remember my time here for the rest of my life.

BY JENTEZEN SMITH, *The Lincoln County News* — Oklahoma Baptist University



Baylee Blancarte and Emily Kalka treated me with nothing but respect and kindness, always being a helping hand. They all made it easy for me to be comfortable in my role and I quickly came to love LCN. I not only bonded with my coworkers, but also our office baby, Banks, Baylee's son. Banks was my buddy and a daily reason to smile.

The main reason I smiled, though, is because I loved my job and being a journalist. Every day was an opportunity, and as they went by, my career path only became further cemented.

I plan to be a sports journalist and Brian helped me follow that passion, covering pro boxers,

care workers, school employees and events.

Amid covering everything, Brian had me take pictures at every interview I did and even sent me on specific photo assignments. I can gladly say I've grown substantially as an all-around journalist and a photographer and formed a passion for both.

In all my work, what stuck out to me the most was an interview with Wirt Trawick, a 94-year-old veteran and 1948 Stroud graduate. In both of his healthy marriages, Wirt's wives passed away. Though he was all alone in assisted living, Wirt was nothing but joyous and kind. In our interview he talked about his life stories in happy remembrance, and specifically his Stroud football days. Smiling, he told me about planning his own funeral and writing his obituary, just joyful to be able to go out on his own terms.

Getting to interact with Wirt struck me deep down about the importance of journalism.

Interviewing him, hearing about his amazing journey and seeing how much joy he had because of my story about him, made me realize something. That, just like him, all people deserve

to have their story told. Everyone has a story deserving recognition and I want to help tell it. I wouldn't have realized that without this internship and for that I'm eternally in debt to the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation and LCN.

Thank you to both for this amazing opportunity and growing me as a journalist. Thank you to Emily and Baylee for not treating me like an intern but respecting and helping me as a coworker. Thank you, Banks, for being a buddy.

And for my last thank you, here's some context. While at an OPA convention, everyone talked about Brian in the highest regard, telling me "There's no one better to learn from" and "I was in good hands." I'm not sure if I've heard anything more true. Brian's invested so much time and energy into me, taking me under his wing and showing me what being a professional journalist is. One day, I hope to hold even half the credibility and respect that people have for Brian.

It was an absolute pleasure being The Lincoln County News summer intern and I can't wait to see where my experience takes me next.

“ Every day was an opportunity, and as they went by, my career path only became further cemented.

I ended up doing five interviews in my first week and learned photo techniques while shadowing Brian. He refined my work and gave me advice, but he never talked down to me.

Along with that, my coworkers

rodeo, softball, football, racing, baseball, track, cycling and sports video games.

He also challenged me to grow in generic journalism, where I covered farmers, muralists, code inspectors, highway and lawn

2024 SUMMER INTERNS

BY KATRINA CRUMBACHER, *The Purcell Register* — University of Oklahoma



Two years ago, I wrote in my Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation internship farewell column that “a newsroom internship is an experience unlike any other.” That still rings true for me today as I conclude my third newsroom internship to date.

When The Purcell Register’s John Denny Montgomery emailed me seemingly out of the blue in mid-May asking if I was interested in joining his staff for a summer internship, it was an incredible

surprise and unexpected blessing as an internship opportunity I had previously been offered had fallen through with little notice.

With each newsroom internship, I have learned more and more about the world in which we live. Upon being handed the responsibility of covering the city council and the local school board over the summer, I jumped at the opportunity to learn more about how a city government functions and all the different kinds of decisions they must make.

That first Purcell City Council meeting I attended in June lasted about five hours. In that meeting, I heard agenda item after agenda item, but only two really caught my attention — a discussion regarding the potential de-annexation of hundreds of acres of land and consideration of a master development plan rezoning more than half of the same land.

I knew then and there that

this was the story that would envelop my summer. I poured over hundreds of pages of open records, whether they be budgets, development plans or articles from decades past. Council meeting summaries notwithstanding, I wrote two stories about the issue, which goes at least as far back as 1997.

Schools, which would be inundated with any school-age children of families who might move to the new development should it be built out as planned.

It just goes to show how local news is vital to a community.

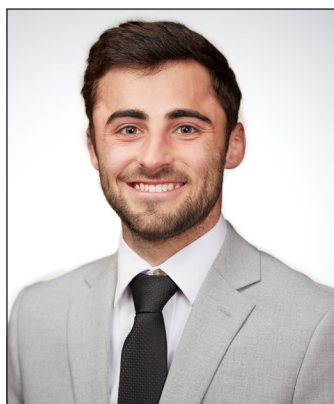
Ready as I am to return to the University of Oklahoma for my final year of college, I cannot help

“ ***With each newsroom internship, I have learned more and more about the world in which we live.*** ”

I spoke with a rural homeowner whose property overlaps with the land potentially to be de-annexed. I spoke with one of the McClain County commissioners who has been pushing for this land to be developed since at least 2009. I spoke with the superintendent of Wayne Public

but be thankful for the wonderful experience I’ve had working with The Purcell Register staff this past summer. I also want to extend my gratitude to the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation Board of Trustees and the Inasmuch Foundation for this incredible opportunity.

BY TREY DALLAS, *Guthrie News Leader* — University of Oklahoma



When I agreed to take the internship position with the Guthrie News Leader, I really didn’t know what to expect since I had no prior experience working with a small-town newspaper.

As the internship draws to a close, I can look back and say that I am happy that I did. The experience I gathered has grown

my journalism skills in ways that sitting in a classroom can not.

While at OU, my writing primarily focuses on athletics with my work at the OU Daily. However, sports reporting and small-town newspaper reporting are two completely different worlds. Working with the News Leader opened my eyes to a different type of journalism that will benefit me when it comes time to find a job once my senior year at OU is complete.

I also had the chance to work with the News-Leader’s sister paper, The Edmond Way, as part of my internship. With Edmond being my hometown, it was fun to report on what was going on in the town that I grew up in,

“ ***The experience I gathered has grown my journalism skills in ways that sitting in a classroom can not.*** ”

something that I had not previously done.

I loved reporting on stories and events in both Edmond and Guthrie. In Edmond, my work at the beginning of the internship was primarily devoted to a sculpture park saga, which had roots dating back to 2021. I also covered Edmond’s LibertyFest and other stories around town. Assignments in Guthrie allowed me the opportunity to cover graduations, crime and other local

community news that the town needed.

I would be missing an opportunity if I didn’t offer my gratitude and appreciation to those that I worked with this summer: Rochelle Stidham, Jennifer Tennyson and Erin Stevens. I sincerely appreciate their guidance and assistance to me throughout the entire summer. It was a wonderful experience for me to work in Guthrie and Edmond.

BY KYRA HUCKABAY, *Weatherford Daily News* — Southwestern Oklahoma State University



"No two days are alike."

This phrase comes to mind when I think of my internship at the Weatherford Daily News.

Some days, I took pictures during story time at the Weatherford Public Library. Other days, I attended a city commissioner

meeting to relay information about agenda items being discussed. More recently, I wrote an article about a top-secret F-117A "Night-hawk" Stealth Fighter aircraft, which arrived at the Stafford Air and Space Museum.

Every task I was assigned this summer provided an opportunity for me to learn. I have made numerous connections throughout my internship and I continue to be inspired by each person I meet.

I remember the first article I wrote for the Weatherford Daily News was in the memorial edition in honor of Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Stafford, who passed away two weeks before I began my internship. Lt. Gen. Stafford is a local hero in Weatherford who was a

U.S. Air Force officer and NASA astronaut. The memorial edition newspaper was special to me because it contained my first article, but also because it honored Lt. Gen. Stafford.

I grew up in Mangum and my elementary school class took a field trip to the Stafford Air and Space Museum here in Weatherford and I thought it was the coolest experience. Having my first article be included with the hero I learned about in elementary school was a full-circle moment for me and is one of my favorite memories looking back.

This experience has allowed me to grow, both as a writer and as a person. In the last few months, I have gotten involved in the community, learned who each local government official is and continue to be knowledgeable about events and projects happening in Weatherford.

The most rewarding part of my job is going in public and seeing people read newspaper articles with my name attached to the byline or hearing people say "I read in the newspaper the other day..." and they explain a story written by me. It assures me how crucial local journalism is and why I continue to do what I do.

I am grateful for this experience and each individual at the Weatherford Daily News for teaching me something new every day. I would like to extend a special "thank you" to Publisher Phillip Reid and Managing Editor Josh Burton. These two have not only taken a chance on me, but allowed me to have creative freedom while still helping me along the way.

“This experience has allowed me to grow, both as a writer and as a person.”

A gift allows Lawton Constitution to donate \$7,500



Lawton Constitution Publisher David Stringer presents Lisa Carson, executive director of the Lawton Public School Foundation, with a check from the Carmage and Martha Ann Walls Foundation. United Way of Southwest Oklahoma and The Salvation Army also received gifts from The Constitution this year. (Photo by DEE ANN PATTERSON, The Lawton Constitution.)

Thanks to a gift from the Carmage and Martha Ann Walls Foundation, The Lawton Constitution directed \$7,500 to be split among the Salvation Army, United Way and Lawton Public School Foundation.

The gift allows publishers at all Southern Newspapers Inc.-owned newspapers to choose local profit or non-profits to receive funds each year.

"Walls Foundation gifts allow our paper to make a significant impact on nonprofits that make our area better and help local volunteers to carry out their mission," said David Stringer, publisher of The Lawton Constitution.

Organizations that received Walls Foundation grants for 2024 provide services for people with dementia and their caregivers, meals, crisis

funding, housing assistance, literacy services, job training, counseling, animal rescue and adoption, healthcare to the underinsured and drug rehabilitation support, among other critical services.

In the past 14 years, the foundation has given more than \$3.5 million to the 11 community newspapers owned by Walls in Texas and Oklahoma.

"I'm proud to be part of a company that places priority on giving back to its communities," Stringer said. "We literally are invested in our towns in so many ways, including employing local people, practicing accountability and community building journalism, helping our local businesses reach customers and so much more."

New editor joins The Norman Transcript



The Norman Transcript has named Ben Fenwick as its new editor.

Fenwick has written for

Reuters and the New York Times, as well as The Daily Oklahoman, Tulsa World, the Oklahoma Gazette, Oklahoma Watch and The Frontier, and provided coverage from Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq as a war correspondent.

"I'm excited and grateful for the opportunity to join the team at The Transcript. Norman is a wonderful place to live and a great news town. This is also an amazing time to be a journalist," said Fenwick.

After graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Fenwick started his career covering Norman before

moving on to cover general assignment reporting in downtown Oklahoma City.

While working for KGOU as a news announcer, Fenwick returned to Norman to pursue a master's degree in journalism.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to add someone of Ben's talent, experience and caliber to The Transcript team," said Katherine Miller, publisher of The Transcript. "We have worked diligently to add some new talent to our newsroom, and I know Ben will do amazing things leading this team."

Tulsa World continues NFS



The Tulsa World's News for Students program is again offering complimentary digital subscriptions for Tulsa-area teachers and their students this school year.

Educators and students at any school in the Tulsa area are eligible.

Just like last year, the offer provides complimentary unlimited digital access to tulsa-world.com, the daily Tulsa World e-edition showing all pages of that day's print edition. It also includes the Tulsa World app and the Tulsa World Archive online of more than 2.3 million photos, and 58,000 videos. E-editions of the Sand Springs Leader, Owasso Reporter, Skiatook Journal and Wagoner County American-Tribune are also included.

The News for Students subscription allows teachers and students to stay current on relevant issues including the latest coverage of breaking news, local news, sports, arts, entertainment, and perspectives in editorials, letters to the editor and opinion columns written by Oklahomans.

"Our goal is to give readers access and insight into the community around them," said Jason Collington, editor of the Tulsa World.

"In this second year of the program, we really want to be a part of the classroom and show students the important role journalism plays in society."

Smith returns to Trail Miller Inc.

Austin Smith is returning to Trail Miller Inc. to become managing editor of The Okeene Record and The Dewey County Record.

Smith was first hired by Trail Miller Inc. in 2018 as a sportswriter/editor. After nearly six years with the company, he returned to Texas to take the position of sports editor for a handful of newspapers north of Dallas.

During his nine-month stint in Texas, Smith continued covering sports for Okeene and Seiling.

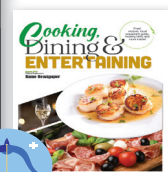
"I knew I didn't want to stop covering these programs," said Smith. "These are special communities with incredible people from top to bottom. I grew so much as a person and professional during my time here and wasn't ready to turn loose of that completely."

Paul Laubach, publisher/manager of Trail Miller Inc., said, "Austin's return is a tremendous blessing for our local newspapers and our communities."



"I sincerely look forward to him taking a larger role with the papers."

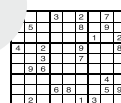
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Beau Simmons named editor of News & Eagle



The Enid News & Eagle recently named veteran Oklahoma journalist Beau Simmons as editor.

The announcement was

made by Jeff Funk, publisher of the News & Eagle.

Simmons will lead the experienced Enid newsroom team, including Associate Editor Kevin Hassler, who has worked at the News & Eagle for nearly 40 years.

Simmons is a graduate of Northeastern State University. He has served as reporter or editor for four Oklahoma newspapers over the last two decades, most recently as editor of The Norman Transcript and Stillwater News Press.

Simmons will continue to serve as editor of the Stillwater News Press and has also

taken on editor duties at the Woodward News.

"Beau has been successful at leading print and digital news teams in finding creative ways to report and share news," Funk said. "He is well qualified to help the News & Eagle communicate with readers throughout Northwest Oklahoma."

Simmons began his journalism career in 2002 as a general assignment reporter in Pryor. From there, he worked for the Durant Democrat as a sports editor, joined The Transcript in 2009 as news editor

and became editor of the News Press in 2015.

Simmons also serves as deputy regional editor for the 13 Oklahoma newspapers owned by CNHI, LLC.

"We have a lot of collaboration within Oklahoma's CNHI newspapers, so I've become very familiar with the News & Eagle's excellent journalism, and I'm excited to lend what I can to the Enid newsroom," Simmons said. "It is among the most experienced newsrooms in the state of Oklahoma and has a great feel for community-driven news."

Wright joins The Transcript

Lucas Wright recently joined the staff of The Norman Transcript as a sales representative.

Wright, who grew up in New Mexico, moved to Norman in March and started his own business, Tiger Melon Photography.

Wright said he hopes to continue to grow his photography business while establishing a place in the community.

"I think they'll work together so that we can be successful here and there," said Wright.

He hopes to bring good customer service and creativity to The Transcript.

"It's a creative industry in general," Wright said. "So even from the sales perspective of things, you can bring a lot of creativity as well."

Open Records dispute settled

An open records dispute between Stephens County District Attorney Jason Hicks and two Oklahoma lawmakers has been settled, Oklahoma Watch recently reported.

Stephens County Judge Brent Russell granted the defendant's motion for summary judgment, ruling that Hicks has produced all records requested by the plaintiffs and that there is insufficient evidence to prove otherwise.

Oklahoma Watch reporter

Keaton Ross said Reps. Justin Humphrey, R-Lane, and Kevin McDugle, R-Broken Arrow, filed the lawsuit last December. The lawsuit claimed that Hicks withheld communication records relating to death row inmate Richard Glossip's April 2023 clemency hearing.

Glossip's execution remains on hold while the U.S. Supreme Court considers his writ of certiorari.

(See CV-2023-00204R on OSCN.net)

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OPA hosts NAM meeting in Oklahoma City

Snapshots from the Newspaper Association Managers meeting.



North Carolina Press Association Executive Director Phil Lucey records his visit to the Oklahoma City National Memorial.



NAM members reflect on the tragedy of the Oklahoma City bombing as they tour the memorial grounds at dusk.



Mark and Debbie Thomas of Oklahoma express sentiments about Texas, pictured alongside Texas Press Association Executive Director Mike Hodges and wife Ilene, a graduate of Oklahoma State University.



Lisa Hills of Minnesota Newspaper Association and Laurie Hieb of Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association enjoy a stagecoach experience at the National Western Heritage Museum.



NAM Clerk Layne Bruce of Mississippi, Vice-President Brian Allfrey of Utah, and President Mark Maassen of Missouri display branding iron gifts given by OPA for their service to NAM. Mark Thomas, Oklahoma Press, at right.



Closeup of head of show iron given to NAM President Mark Maassen. The head of a show branding iron is reversed to read properly when shown to guests and friends. Irons were purchased from lhbrandingirons.com in Mandan, ND.

Sequoyah County Times highlights homelessness



Looking Them Over

by Rod Serfoss
rserfoss@okpress.com

Well written stories, outstanding photographs and graphics, exceptional composition and quality press work make the *Sequoyah County Times* one of the premier newspapers in Oklahoma.

A recent series of stories by Lynn Adams titled “On the streets where you live” addressed the homeless population in Sallisaw, a town of 8,500 people in far eastern Oklahoma.



The series began in July containing stories including:

“Growing homelessness trend is a problem that can't be ignored”;

“Criminalizing homelessness isn't answer to the problem”;

“Are love and compassion answer to homelessness?”;

“Homeless encampments outlawed”;

“Soup N Soulz ministry at The Shed seeks to help Sallisaw's homeless”;

“Homelessness, mental health can intersect for those on the streets”;

“Everyone is doing the

best they can to remedy city's homeless problem”;

“Homeless sacrifice health-care to survive each day on the streets”.

Two more articles in the series are scheduled in August. One is an interview with a small downtown business owner affected by the homeless issue and the other a column by Adams about his wife's life being saved by a homeless person.

Each of the well written stories demonstrates the *Times* commitment to community leadership and in-depth reporting in order to make its town better.

It would have been much easier to write one story, cover a meeting and call it good, but that is not the *Sequoyah County Times'* way of doing things.

Each year *OKC Friday* polls its readers to find who they think are the most powerful Oklahomans. This year Friday readers put Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby at the top of the list.

Rounding out the top five were Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt, OKC Thunder Chairman Clay Bennett, Attorney Tricia Everest and Attorney General Gentner Drummond. Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt came in at 13.

I also enjoy reading the quotes that regularly appear on the top of *Friday's* opinion page.

- “And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” – John 8:32, quoting Jesus
- “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” – Edmund Burke paraphrase, 1767
- “If you want it in the paper, it's advertising. If you don't want it in the paper, it's news.” –

Ancient Chinese Proverb. (My favorite.)

- “Without, or with, offense to friends or foes, we sketch your world exactly as it goes.” – Lord Byron, 1818
- “Every violation of truth is a stab at the health of human society.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1878
- “We must always stand – alone if necessary – as the conscience of the community.” – J. Leland Gourley, 1959



Woodward News Assistant Editor Rachael Van Horn did a good job combining with CNHI News Oklahoma's Jessica Marshall to localize a story about the Oklahoma State Department of Education mandating all schools must teach the Bible.

Van Horn's story didn't end when the local superintendent said, “It's too soon to tell how the mandate will be implemented here.”

She went on to tell the superintendent has no problem with the Bible and displaying the U.S. Constitution and 10 Commandments, but he believes how to properly apply the new mandate to students in every classroom has been under-researched. The story also said he is not instructing anyone on his staff to rush out to spend around \$4,500 to put Bibles and the two other documents in the 213 classrooms in Woodward.

The *Ponca City News* recently produced a special section titled “Welcome, neighbor” that showcased the northern Oklahoma town of 24,000 to newcomers and those considering making it their home.

The section included 20 pages of informative stories and pictures about the must-see attractions and history of the city. It also had lots of advertising to make sure both new and current residents know where to do business.

From its office in Hinton, *The Country Connection* has taken on a new look and is expanding how it connects with readers.

Last month, CC Publisher Cory Cart launched the *Country Connection Book Club* “to foster the love for reading while celebrating the rich history of Caddo County and the state of Oklahoma.” The club will focus on books by local authors, Oklahoma writers and topics of interest to the community.

TOP FIVE HEADLINES:

5. **From fun to tragedy in a heartbeat**
– *Kingfisher Times & Free Press*
4. **Whiskey still shut down, Roland man charged**
– *Eastern Time Register*
3. **A little Tequila, Meth, and No Insurance**
– *Atoka County Times*
2. **Canine Flatulence**
– *Frederick Press-Leader*
1. **Accused claims he was auditioning for porn job**
– *McCurrian Gazette*

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

Get ready for the new school year by creating forms



Computer Notes

from the road

by Wilma Newby

wnewby@okpress.com

Most newspapers are busy getting ready for the upcoming school season.

It's a busy time spent gathering names and mugshots of student players that will be used over the next few months.

To make it easier, try setting up some forms ahead of time with tabs and tables for stats. This idea could even be used for election results.

If you're using InDesign, the first step is to set up a type block with the text tool.

Decide how many tabs will be used per line by typing a dummy line of text with tabs in it. Don't worry about the order of the tabs yet.

While you're still in the type block with the flashing "I" beam, do a **Select All** (under **Edit > Select All** or use the **Command/Control + A** keyboard shortcut).

In InDesign (ID), go to the **Table** menu and slide down to **Tabs** to bring up the controls for tabs. For QuarkXPress (QX) users, hit the tabs button in the measurements palette at the bottom of the screen.

Players Name	Jersey #	Position	Blocks Made	Receptions Made
Joe	45	Defensive End	36	0
Chris	27	Middle Linebacker	45	0
Tim	30	Strong Safety	38	1

Set the tabs to decimal, left or right, by choosing the tab placed on the clear bar so it is highlighted blue/black; now click the icon symbol for that command that says flush right. Drag to the desired location or type in values.

It can be tricky at first to get thing right — that's why we're doing it ahead of time.

After the tabs are set delete the text that was used to set up the tabs leaving one line and add to a library for further use.

If you do not have a library create one under **File > New > Library...** Name it something like football setups and then select your desktop and hit **Save(ID)/Create(QX)**. Items dragged into the Library will be available to new documents created throughout the season.

Drag your text block with the setup tabs into the library and give it a name.

Now let's make that text block into a table that will be attractive to readers.

First, select all within the type block. Now in ID or QX go to the **Table** menu and down to **Convert Text into**

Table. Leave the next box as is and click **OK**.

In ID you can center all the text while it's selected with the keyboard shortcut **Command/Control + Shift + C**.

QX creates a new table object so each block must be adjusted separately. It might be best to create centered tabs in the first table before converting it to a table.

After the table is made, use the **Table** menu to create effects such as shading every other row. You'll find this option in ID under **Table > Table Options > Table Setup**.

Now that the table is setup for the new school year, drag it into the newly created Library.

EXTERNAL DRIVES

Let's take a look at how to format external drives the right way on a Mac for use with Time Machine.

Apple has several file formats for Macs ranging from APFS for newer Macs to HFS+ (also known as Mac OS Extended Journaled) for Macs born before MacOS 10.13 High Sierra.

Most external hard drives come formatted as DOS for Windows making it confusing to set up a recoverable Time Machine backup drive.

To completely recover your Mac with Time Machine, the

system and all the files on the external drive must be formatted to the same format as the internal drive on the computer.

When adding a new drive first click on the **internal drive** of the computer and go to **File**

General:
Kind: Volume
Created: Septen
Modified: Septen
Version: 14.0
Format: APFS

> Get Info. On the example at left, the format is APFS.

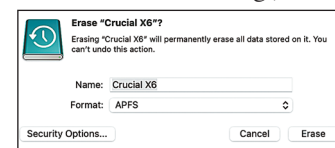
We need the external drive

to have the same format as the internal drive on the computer.

To get the **External Drive** off a Windows format and change it to **APFS** or **Mac Journaled** depends on the age of your computer.

To format the new drive with **Disk Utility**, look under the **Go** menu while on **Desktop > Utilities**. In that folder you will find **Disk Utilities**.

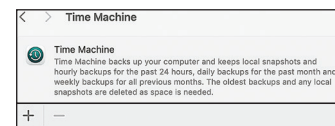
Choose the **External Drive** and **Erase**. (Make sure it says External before erasing.)



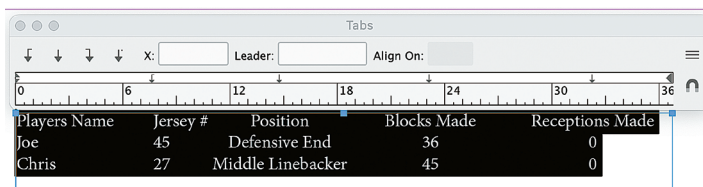
After "Format:" choose either APFS or Mac Journaled Extended matching the **Get Info** dialogue box.

Now set up the Time Machine. Go to **System Settings > general > Time Machine**. Use the "+" sign to add the newly formatted drive so it will back up the computer. This backup will be able to fully recover your computer.

To help the external drive list, just plug in the backup once a week.



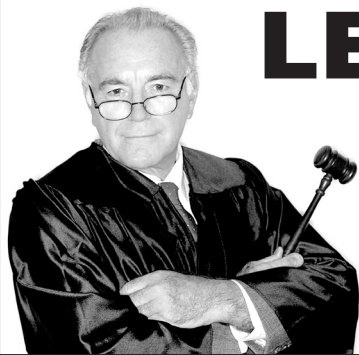
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Worth Mentioning

Reid Newspapers subscription special



In a circulation promotion, Reid Newspapers used a full page of the newspaper to promote a half-price subscription special.

For each one-year subscription, the newspapers donated \$5 of the purchase to a nonprofit organization in the community.

Reid Newspapers, operated by Phillip Reid, includes The Afton American, Oologah Lake Leader, Weatherford Daily News, The Grove Sun, Miami News-Record, Delaware County Journal, The Tribune in Bethany, Vinita Daily Journal and the Grand Laker.

Enid News & Eagle provides Total Access

The Enid News & Eagle uses a house ad to remind readers that they can access the newspaper with a subscription “whenever, wherever, however they want it”. The ad gets the message out that a Total Access subscription includes all platforms — print, smartphone, desktop computer and tablet. The subscription provides breaking news, real-time weather, expanded photo galleries and social media commenting.



Third annual School Supply Drive in Snyder

The Kiowa County Democrat in Snyder is holding its third annual School Supply Drive to help provide extra supplies to Snyder Public Schools. Supplies collected will be delivered to the school offices to be used by students and staff as needed.



The Democrat referred readers to the school supply lists printed in the newspaper. An Amazon link for supplies that could be shipped directly to the newspaper office was also provided.

Supplies as well as monetary donations could also be dropped off at the newspaper office.

Coollest Canine photo contest in Watonga

The Watonga Republican is asking readers how they keep their furry friends cool during the dog days of summer with a “Coolest Canine” photo contest.

Readers are asked to upload photos for a chance to win prizes and bragging rights.

First place is a one-night stay at a spa retreat for pets; second place \$50; and third place a one-year subscription to the newspaper.



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Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year.

Darlene Howard July 19, 2023	Karen Annette Miller Radford Holt August 15, 2023
Haskell Lee Gaither July 30, 2023	James 'Jim' Franklin Ellis August 22, 2023
Charles Joseph 'Chuck' Reheman August 4, 2023	Jenkin 'Jenk' Lloyd Jones Jr., August 23, 2023

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JUNE WINNERS

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

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

JUNE EDITORIAL WINNER (*Read editorial at okpress.com/ong-contest*)

JEFF FUNK, *Enid News & Eagle*

Fight the Blight: City must force cleanup of dilapidated pot farm at east Enid gateway

The city of Enid made a significant step this month in addressing a frustrating ongoing problem at the eastern entrance to the city along U.S. 412.

For more than four years, a now defunct marijuana grow operation on the north side of the four-lane highway has been allowed to deteriorate, with a large expanse of former greenhouses now tattered, torn and falling apart.

It's an eyesore. It's ugly and unsafe. It's also located in a highly traveled area with welcome-to-Enid signs. Not good. City government has been patiently working with the property owner, Amenda Ploeger, to clean up the high visibility mess. Finally, the city's patience ran out, and the city issued a formal "abatement notice" or nuisance notice giving Ploeger until the end of this week to clean up the dilapidated property. If the landowner doesn't act, the city can move in and clean up the private property.

It's time.

To keep local taxpayers from paying the cost, the city likely will place a claim or lien against the property. Because the land at 3223 E. Randolph is very marketable property, it's likely the city will recover any cleanup costs when the property sells.

The old, planned cannabis grow operation, formerly the home of Lucky Flower Farms, has been a terrible eyesore and nuisance for years. Cleaning up the property is critical to Enid's image because the property at the city's gateway is so visible and prominent for visitors coming into the Enid from the east.

Community cleanup has properly been a concern of city government for some time. Last year, Enid city government allocated \$100,000 and substantial city staff time to cleaning up high-traffic corridors around the city. The city's focus of mowing and removing debris often provided incentive to private property owners to step up their efforts and keep property tidy and presentable.

That beautification effort along the city corridors was positive and making progress, but its impact was modest compared with potential of cleaning up the large and highly visible blight along the east Enid gateway.

City government cannot police every piece of property — far from it — but it's certainly time to move forward promptly on the defunct marijuana grow mess, with or without the property owner's cooperation.

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

CONNIE BURCHAM, *Watonga Republican*

A Bubble Off Plumb

I spent three weeks in Hell once. You might wonder how one gets to Hell. I rode in atop an 18-hand red mule named Moe.

Let me elaborate. You see, I had been hired as camp cook for an outfitter in Hell's Canyon, Idaho. There is also an Oregon side, but I wasn't up for that much Hell.

Hell's Canyon is what the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness wants to be when it grows up. A rougher, steeper or more rugged place God never put on a map. Or if He did, I never heard about it.

The only ways in are on foot or by hooved animal. No motorized vehicles, no roads only trails, no chain saws or electric lights or indoor toilets. Remote doesn't begin to describe this place.

We packed in on my birthday in early October, cool, crisp sunshine everywhere. After a 10-mile jaunt, we arrived at the Log Creek Camp.

My only stipulation when I hired on was no bears. I don't like bears. I have a pathological fear of bears. No reason why, but that's the thing about irrational fears—they are irrational.

We dismounted to find a bear had ransacked the camp, especially the cook tent, where I was to reside for the next little while.

What a mess! It seems the bear had a particular fondness for Tang and ate a whole flat of powder. The guide I was with explained this was just a black bear, they didn't have grizzlies in this part of Idaho. On the other hand, he had never seen a bear with a map. I was skeptical at best.

But life settled into its routine of starting fires and cooking on the wood stove and packing huge lunches for the hunters. Until a day or so later. About 2 a.m. I was snuggled in my down sleeping bag — it was about 20 degrees that high in the mountains — when I heard the zipper on the tent creep open. I sat bolt upright in my cot, a light in one hand and a pistol in the other. I wanted to make sure it wasn't a dentist from Michigan or the camp dog looking for a midnight snack.

It was neither. It was the bear. Did I scream or shout? No. I told the bear in a normal voice he couldn't be there, and he had to go.



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

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

1. Each month, submit your entry online at okpress.com/ong-contest. Attachments should be in PDF format.
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.

Contest open to staff at OPA Legal Newspaper and General News Media members, as well as OPA Individual members.

Although Oklahoma Natural Gas Company selects representative contest winners' work for use in this monthly ad, the views expressed in winning columns and editorials are those of the writers and don't necessarily reflect the Company's opinions.