



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PAGE 5** The Pawnee Chief under new ownership
- PAGE 6** Oklahoma Journalism HOF names Ogles as award recipients
- PAGE 8** Judge puts hold on Beneficial Owner Information filing

From the President

By Shauna Belyeu

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



Star Notes

My favorite time during the holidays was at the end of the night, when the house was settled and everyone was in bed. I would take one last look at the Christmas lights as they glowed in the still night. It was a peaceful time of reflection.

One Christmas when my daughter Lauren was three, she is now 32, it was time to take down the tree. She cried and did her best to convince us to keep it up all year.

To her dismay, we took down all the magic of Christmas. When it was completed, I sat at the table and wrote a note with the date to remind myself of everything that she said that day. I packed it away with the decorations, not to be remembered until the next year.

The next year, I found the note and we had a good laugh and a tradition was born.

In the beginning, it was just a snapshot of what the holiday season was like that year. I would write it at the conclusion of the holiday and tuck it away with the Christmas tree star so we could find it on top of the box the next year.

As she grew, my notes built on the reflection of the holiday and included a positive word for her and for her upcoming year.

As the years went by, Lauren had to work on the weeks leading up to Christmas. As I pulled out the holiday boxes it was then that I realized

that my 'star notes' had come full circle. When she was little, they were mainly for my benefit to remember her at each age. As she got older, she enjoyed finding the notes and seeing what I had written for her the year prior. This year mine were the only eyes to read the note, but it served to remind me of the previous year and to see how blessed I am to get to watch her grow into a beautiful, giving soul who delights in helping others.

These little snapshots in time will forever hold a special place in my heart of years gone by and serve as a reminder of the blessings that lie ahead for the new year.

As we approach the end of another year, I am filled with gratitude for my family, home, job and health. I am grateful for the support that we have from the Oklahoma Press Association and each member newspaper, that is also like family.

My star note to you all would be a reminder to let the world pause, be intentional and take the time to cherish the people who matter most.

May your holidays be filled with purpose, intention and the joy of truly being present with those you hold dear.

Merry Christmas from myself and all the staff at the Oklahoma Press Association.

OPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Thu., January 9, 2025

OMC WEBINAR:

7 WAYS TO NOT GET GHOSTED AFTER A GREAT ADVERTISER MEETING

How do you set up the meeting with a client in such a way that you will avoid being ghosted? Media sales veteran Ryan Dohrn will share his seven tips to keep the conversation going and avoid the game of silence that plagues us all.

Thu., January 16, 2025

OMC WEBINAR:

LEGAL ADS

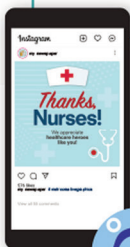
Yes, you can grow legal revenue in 2025! Using your State Rules to boost new business, upsell current business, improve customer service and provide features you never thought possible will be revealed in this webinar. Find out how you can improve your legal revenue and service in 2025 without rocking the boat!

Thu., February 6, 2025 LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT AT THE STATE CAPITOL

OKLAHOMA CITY

Publishers and editors are encouraged to join us at the State Capitol on February 6 at the annual Legislative Summit. More information will be available later.

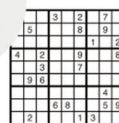
“ I didn't know you had this! ”



- PRINT & DIGITAL SPEC ADS
- ARTICLES & RECIPES
- PUZZLES & HOROSCOPES
- SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS
- CUSTOMER REQUESTS
- FREE WEBINARS

& so much more

FREE TRIAL OFFER!



METRO

CREATE. SELL. PROFIT.

800-223-1600

service@metro-email.com

metrocreativeconnection.com

Visit metrocreativeconnection.com to see all we offer!

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

or call 405-499-0020

Sulphur Times-Democrat reopens



Kathy and James John stand in front of the Sulphur Times-Democrat their granddaughter Saidie Mae John. The Times-Democrat newspaper office was closed for five months for repairs after the April 27, 2024, tornado.

After more than five months the Sulphur Times-Democrat office reopened in downtown Sulphur on October 21.

The building was heavily damaged in the April 27 tornado, said Times-Democrat owners James and Kathy John. However, there was no struc-

tural damage and the office is now in the final stage of repair with only a small amount of work left to complete.

The tornado destroyed much of the downtown area to the west of the newspaper building at 115 West Muskogee St., and to the north and

northwest into residential areas and to the southwest including many areas of Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

The Johns thanked their readers, advertisers and the community for their support while the office was closed for repairs.

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 at (405) 499-0033 or toll-free in Oklahoma 1-888-815-2672 today!



The Oklahoma Publisher

ISSN 1526-811X

Official Publication of the
OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSOCIATION

OPA OFFICERS

President

SHAUNA BELYEU
The Eufaula Indian Journal

Vice President

SUZIE CAMPBELL
Countywide & Sun

Treasurer

BRIAN BLANSETT
The Lincoln County News

Executive Vice President

MARK THOMAS

OPA DIRECTORS

SHEILA GAY

Past President, *Woodward News*

ERIN DYER THOMPSON

El Reno Tribune

ED CHOATE

Muskogee Phoenix

BRETT WESNER

Wesner Publications

SHAUN WITT

Oklahoma Watch

CONNOR CHOATE

Marietta Monitor

JASON COLLINGTON

Tulsa World

OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSOCIATION

3601 N. Lincoln Blvd.

Oklahoma City OK 73105-5499

(405) 499-0020

Toll-Free in Oklahoma: (888) 815-2672

www.OkPress.com

news@OkPress.com

www.Facebook.com/OKPress

SUBSCRIBE TO THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHER \$12 PER YEAR

THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHER (USPS 406-920) is published monthly for \$12 per year by the Oklahoma Press Association, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHER, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499.

OG&E[®] PHOTO CONTEST



Dale Head Coach Andy Powell lets the emotion flow after his Lady Pirates won their sixth fastpitch state championship, 1-0, over Pocola.

Photo by RICK HESTER, The Lincoln County News, October 17, 2024



Tahlequah Head Coach Brad Gilbert pleads after a call with an official during week four against the Claremore Zebras while quarterback coach Tate Christian reacts in shock.

Photo by JAKE SERMERSHEIM, Tahlequah Daily Press, October 1, 2024

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

**JAKE
SERMERSHEIM**
Tahlequah Daily Press

OCTOBER 2024
WEEKLY WINNER:

**RICK
HESTER**
The Lincoln County News

*The OGE Photo Contest
was judged by a member of the
Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.*

View all winning photos
and contest rules at

**OkPress.com/
OGE-Photo-Contest
Enter and Win
a \$100 Check from
OGE ENERGY CORP.**

For more information
about the photo contest,
visit [okpress.com/
oge-photo-contest](http://okpress.com/oge-photo-contest)



OG&E[®]

We Energize Life

© 2021 OGE Energy Corp.

The Pawnee Chief under new ownership



Kari Ferguson Watkins, left, and Jo L. Ferguson, right, hand the keys of The Pawnee Chief to new owner Carol Conner. (Reprinted with permission. Photo by Candice Cason.)

Larry Ferguson recently announced that Carol Conner, publisher of The Fairfax Chief, has assumed ownership of The Pawnee Chief.

“I’m absolutely thrilled to be the new owner of The Pawnee Chief,” said Conner. “With the gracious help of

the Ferguson family, and the support of the community, The Pawnee Chief will continue to bring folks local stories.”

The Ferguson family said they are happy to see the 84-year-old publication continue.

Carol and her husband,

Joe, who passed away in 2023, lived in Pawnee in the 1970s. Dr. Joe Conner was the psychologist at the Pawnee Indian Hospital, and Carol was completing her graduate work at Oklahoma State University.

The Conners moved away for awhile, but kept up with the community. When they returned to Osage County, they ran their company, Paradox, which provided evaluation, consultation and health research to more than 150 tribes around the country.

The Conners took over as owners and operators of The Fairfax Chief when Joe’s sister, Ida Roberts, died in 2015. Roberts had been owner and publisher of The Chief since 2001.

When Carol learned that The Pawnee Chief was closing, she contacted the Ferguson family to see if there might be a way to continue the legacy that they had begun.

“While we’re pretty sure there will be bumps in the road ahead, we are excited to be able to continue the work of providing local news to

the wonderful community of Pawnee,” said Conner.

Larry and Rusty Ferguson announced plans to close their three newspapers – The Pawnee Chief, The Cleveland American and The Hominy News-Progress – in October, setting November 27 as the date the final papers would roll off the presses.

The family newspaper business began in 1922 when Jo O. Ferguson founded the Pawnee Courier-Dispatch in 1922 and The Pawnee Chief in 1941. Jo O. acquired The American in 1931, and passed it on to his son, Larry, in 1962. The Hominy News-Progress was added to their properties in 1970. In 1985, Larry passed The American to his son, Rusty.

In the next to the last issue of The Cleveland American, Rusty and Deana’s four children – Liberty Bayouth, Lincoln Ferguson, Landon Ferguson and Layne Ferguson – became the fourth generation of the Ferguson family to publish the newspaper with tributes to the legacy of their father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

**OKLAHOMA
PRESS**

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

CHICKASAW NATION MEDIA RELATIONS

Loné Beasley
580-559-0921
lone.beasley@chickasaw.net
chickasaw.net

ETYPE SERVICES

Thad Swiderski
512-687-9055
thad@etypeservices.com
etypeservices.com

FEED THE CHILDREN

Carrie Snodgrass
(405) 213-9757
carrie.snodgrass@
feedthechildren.org
feedthechildren.org

GRAND RIVER DAM AUTHORITY

Justin Alberty
918-256-5545
justin.alberty@grda.com
grda.com

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OKLAHOMA

Adi McCasland
405-250-6331
amccasland@mhaok.org
mhaok.org

METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Jennifer Steiner
800-223-1600
jsteiner@metro-email.com
metrocreativeconnection.com

OGE ENERGY CORP.

Christi Woodworth
405-553-3698
woodwoco@oge.com
oge.com

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC.

Chris Meyers
405-478-1455
cmeyers@oaec.coop
oaec.coop

OKLAHOMA BAR ASSOCIATION

Janet Johnson
405-416-7000
janetj@okbar.org
okbar.org

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

Jody Harlan, Comm. Director
405-203-1318
jharlan@okdrs.gov
oklahoma.gov/okdrs.html

OKLAHOMA MEDIA CENTER

Rob Collins, Executive Director
405-205-9421
rob@oklahomamediacycenter.com
oklahomamediacycenter.com

OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS

Chad Previch
405-501-9509
Chad.Previch@onegas.com
oklahomanaturalgas.com

OKLAHOMA STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Christy Watson, Comm. Director
405-528-3571
christyw@ossba.org
ossba.org

PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Kurt Gwartney
918-270-6470
kurt.gwartney@ptstulsa.edu
ptstulsa.edu

Oklahoma Journalism HOF names Ogles as recipients of Lifetime Achievement Award

The late Jack Ogle and his sons Kevin, Kent and Kelly have been selected as the Lifetime Achievement honorees for the 55th anniversary of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

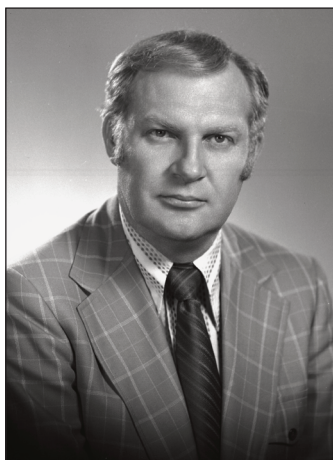
The Ogles will be honored during the induction ceremony on May 9, 2025, at the University of Central Oklahoma. A reception at 5 p.m. will kick off the ceremony followed by the induction dinner at 6 p.m. Both events will be in the Nigh University Center on the UCO campus.

The 2025 Class and the special 55th anniversary Posthumous Class will be announced early next year.

The Selection Committee unanimously selected the Ogles for the Lifetime Achievement honor. The honor is reserved for those who have either contributed to journalism excellence through their work or have a lifetime of supporting First Amendment or journalistic causes.

It will be the first time that a family has been honored this way.

Joe Hight, director of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, said he decided to announce the Lifetime Achieve-



JACK OGLE

ment honor early because of the prestige of the Ogle name to Oklahoma.

"It's fitting that the Ogles join the hall of fame as members on the 55th anniversary of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. We couldn't think of a better way to celebrate this milestone than by having them join the other distinguished members who have received Oklahoma's highest journalistic honor," he said.

In his nomination, Vance Harrison, president of the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters, wrote that the Ogle family has more than a combined 150 years of "Oklahoma journalism excellence to their credit." He added that



Members of the Ogle family are the 2025 honorees of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame's Lifetime Achievement Award. Kevin Ogle, left, Jack's oldest son, has been the principal anchor at KFOR-TV 4 in Oklahoma City for the past 27 years. Kelly Ogle, center, is Jack's youngest son. From 1990 to 2022, he was the principal anchor at KWTU-TV 9 in Oklahoma City. Kelly currently teaches broadcast journalism at Oklahoma State University. Kent Ogle, is the middle son. Kent joined KFOR-TV 4 in 1994 where he has anchored the morning news program for 30 years.

an Ogle has been in Oklahoma broadcast journalism for eight decades starting with Jack Ogle in the 1950s and continuing today with his three sons.

Jack Ogle died in 1999, but his sons have continued either in Oklahoma broadcast journalism or journalism education in the state. Kevin, Kent and Kelly also have at least three Emmy awards among them.

"The legacy of the Ogle family in Oklahoma journalism and broadcasting is unparalleled," wrote Harrison, a Lifetime Achievement honoree himself. "Journalism excellence started with Jack Ogle and his remarkable skills were passed on to his three sons who continue the Ogle tradition today."

Shawnee News-Star reflects on 13-decade history

The Shawnee News-Star reflected on its 13-decade history in its November 23-24 Weekender edition.

More than a dozen pages featured several front pages and photographs from the newspaper.

For more than five decades, The News-Star was

located at 215 N. Bell in Shawnee. Several photos of the previous newspaper office were featured in the edition.

When CherryRoad Media purchased the News-Star from Gannett in 2022, the office was moved from its longtime location to an office at 1725 N. Kickapoo.

The News-Star is now a tri-weekly publication, publishing every Tuesday and Thursday, along with a special Weekender edition that comes out on Friday.

In addition, the paper offers digital e-editions, as well as online and extra content, special features, special

sections and other locally produced magazines online at news-star.com.

Over the next year, The News-Star plans to share even more pieces of history and archives as it reflects on the history of the community.

**60% of parents
whose teens
vape don't know
it's happening.**

**Are you in
the dark?**

Learn more about teen vaping and
how to start the conversation at
Talk About Tobacco.com
FROM TOBACCO STOPS WITH ME

 **TSET**
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT
ENDOWMENT TRUST

OU Daily named top three in Pinnacle Awards by CMA

OU Daily was recently named one of the nation's top three college media organizations in Pinnacle Awards announced by the College Media Association in New Orleans.

Competing against four-year outlets on campuses with more than 10,000 students, the Daily finished third behind the UCLA Daily Bruin, which won first place, and the Indiana Daily Student, which finished second.

OU Student Media efforts have now earned 15 organizational Pinnacle honors since

2017. The Daily has been named a media outlet of the year finalist seven times in the past eight years, winning the top honor in 2017 and 2019.

The award recognizes organizations that serve audiences through multiple channels, across writing, photo, video, design, apps, social media and more with "a day-in-day-out quality and quantity of coverage that students, faculty, staff and administrators want – and frankly, need," according to judging criteria.

The Ada News stops e-edition of newspaper

The Ada News recently announced that it is ending its e-editions.

The newspaper dropped its Wednesday and Friday print editions a couple of years ago, but still printed an e-edition on those days.

Since the stories are already provided online, on The Ada News website and Facebook pages, e-editions are no longer an essential component in news presentations, said Mau-

risa Nelson, publisher of The Ada News.

Readers will still receive the same amount of content, but it will be on the website, which will allow the staff to focus more on stories for the print editions.

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

ORDER YOUR 2025 PHOTO ID PRESS CARD



2025 PRESS CARD

Make sure you add a photo ID press card to your toolkit. These press cards are perfect for reporters, photographers and other staff members at your newspaper.

Only \$7 each!

ORDER ONLINE AT
okpress.com/press-cards

Judge puts hold on Beneficial Owner Information filing

A federal judge in Texas has put the Corporate Transparency Act on hold by an order that prohibits the federal government from enforcing it anywhere in the country.

The court found in Texas Top Cop Shop, Inc. et al. v. Garland, et al, Case No. 4:24-

cv-478 [E.D. Tex.] that the law is likely unconstitutional.

Among its requirements was an obligation for 32.5 million companies including small businesses to submit sensitive information regarding “beneficial owners” to the United States Department of

Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) by January 1, 2025, or face a \$500 per day penalty for failure to report.

As a result of the ruling, no business will be required to file Beneficial Owner

Information by the January 1, 2025 deadline.

However, there will likely be further litigation, so businesses that have not filed yet may want to have their information ready to file in case this injunction is overturned at a higher level.

Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalists Pro Chapter announces 2024 award recipients

The Oklahoma Society of Professional Journalists Pro Chapter recently announced its 2024 award winners. The recipients are recognized for published work in television, radio, print and public relations in 2023. For this year’s contest, journalists entered 60 categories.

The annual awards program is an opportunity to pay tribute to journalism professionals who are covering the leading news stories in the state. The judges are selected from an out-of-state journalism organization. This year’s judges were affiliated with the Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists.

The Cherokee Phoenix placed first for Print Outstanding Newspaper with the OU Daily taking second. For a complete list of award winners, visit okspj.com/awards.

In addition to the awardees, the OKSPJ honored three individuals for their services to the journalism profession. The honorees are the following:

FRANK GREER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Clytie Bunyan was the recipient of the Frank Greer Lifetime Achievement Award. Bunyan is managing editor for Opinion and Community Engagement at The Oklaho-



CLYTIE BUNYAN

man newspaper. She has been a journalist in Oklahoma for 36 years. She was the first woman to lead its business news department and served as business editor, the longest in the newspaper’s history. Her responsibilities expanded to being editor of the health, common education and city hall beats. Currently, she manages the Viewpoints section, providing a platform for community engagement. A member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, Bunyan also serves on the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation’s board. Originally from Tobago, she holds a journalism degree from the University of Central Oklahoma.

CARTER BRADLEY FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

The Carter Bradley First Amendment Award went to Dylan Brown, a KFOR Channel 4 (NBC) weekend anchor and reporter. He previously was an anchor in Redding, Calif., where he covered major



DYLAN BROWN

wildfires. Brown and KFOR photojournalists Kevin Josefy and Gage Shaw have filed a federal lawsuit against Oklahoma state officials, alleging First Amendment violations. The lawsuit claims KFOR journalists were barred from State Board of Education meetings and news conferences with Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters, despite having press credentials, while other media were admitted. Filed in Oklahoma City federal court, the case seeks equal press access and challenges alleged selective media exclusion based on viewpoint discrimination. Brown is a graduate of Yukon High School and University of Central Oklahoma broadcast journalism graduate

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Joe Hight was named Teacher of the Year. Hight holds the Edith Kinney Gaylord Endowed Chair of Journalism Ethics at the Univer-



JOE HIGHT

sity of Central Oklahoma. He teaches Media Ethics, Media Conference Leadership, Database Investigative Journalism and Media Writing at UCO. As former editor of the Colorado Springs Gazette newspaper, he led its Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of veterans with PTSD. Co-founder of the Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma, Hight has championed trauma-informed reporting and ethics, authoring resources still in use today. He owns Best of Books in Edmond and writes the “Oklahoma Joe” column for The Journal Record newspaper. His nonfiction work, “Unnecessary Sorrow,” explores his brother’s life and death. He’s working on The Trauma Journey project with the Dart Center. Hight is director of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame as well as an inductee.

“This year’s award recipients are the best of the best in the state’s journalism profession. We celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of our colleagues – journalists, educators, and students – who devote countless hours to produce news. We believe that the results of their work contribute to a more informed electorate, a prerequisite of a democratic society,” said Dr. Jerry Goodwin, president of OKSPJ.

Readers pay attention to *The Prague Times-Herald*



Looking Them Over

by Rod Serfoss
rserfoss@okpress.com

Attention-grabbing pictures and well written stories are the norm in every edition of *The Prague Times-Herald*.



In covering the November Chamber of Commerce meeting, Sharon Maggard did excellent work reporting on a topic that is important for every small community in Oklahoma.

The meeting told how former Prague High School graduate Darrin Hand motivated the community when he talked about why he decided to return to Prague after 22 years – including eight years with the Department of Defense and its Air Force One program.

“Once, while on Air Force One my supervisor said, ‘It’s not that small towns are important – they are necessary,’” said Hand.

“Reality is – small towns make up America. It is sad when they dry up. In an attempt to preserve what they have they stand still. To do this is to die.

“It takes everyone to get something going – the City Council, the Chamber, the Lions Club – everyone.

“Who has the entrepreneurial spirit? Appoint them to the Chamber or the City Council. Don’t just look at the negatives.”

“*The Pawnee Chief* Purchased by *Fairfax Chief*’s Carol Conner” was the lead story in the Nov. 27, 2024, edition of *The Pawnee Chief*. The announcement came after publisher Larry Ferguson had announced he was closing all three legal newspapers in the county.

Just two weeks earlier, Conner published an excellent story in *The Fairfax Chief* about the upcoming closing of Ferguson’s newspapers.

“Local news in our area is about to experience a terrible blow – the closing of *The Pawnee Chief*, *The Cleveland American*, and *The Hominy News-Press*,” wrote Conner in the Nov. 14, 2024, edition of *The Fairfax Chief*.

“This is horrible news. While some think they get their news from social media – a simple scroll shows posts about lost dogs, scams, negative Nellies reporting the one bad experience they’ve had, nasty anonymous posts.

“But what you won’t find is information from folks doing the difficult work of going to public meetings – the ones that keep our local communities alive – and reporting what happens there as fairly as possible.”

Conner went on to write, “If you read local news reporting from school boards, town councils, county government and tribal governments – then you know whether the people you vote for are doing their jobs or not.

“If you want the commu-

nity to know about your kid’s athletic successes, or that they made the honor roll – well, the newspaper is the place.

“While one proud grandma might post that on social media, it is quickly replaced by someone posting something deeply meaningless.

“If you want this newspaper to continue to flourish – keep reading, keep advertising, get your friends to subscribe or gift them with a subscription, and encourage local businesses to support us.”

Thanks to Carol Conner for making sure the people in Pawnee and Pawnee County will continue to have a legal newspaper that can help the town and county prosper in the future.

An exceptional layout is the icing on the cake when it comes to attracting readers to buy a newspaper. One of the best layouts in the state is *The Purcell Register*.

On top of a great layout, readers get a heavy serving of well written stories and pictures awaiting them on every page and are treated to weekly columns by the Montgomerys – the “Editor’s Notebook” by John D. and “It’s a Small World” by Gracie.

If you only read the front page of the *Miami News-Record* you would think you know everything that was happening in northeast Oklahoma.

On page one of the Nov. 22 edition, *News-Record* headlines included, “Holiday Homes Tour Returns to Miami,” “NEO Livestock Judging Team brings home national title,” “Afton Board gives green light to Chamber Christmas Parade” and “City receives \$6.8M for water infrastructure.” On top of that, it also had eight P.1 photos.

Inside, readers found a wide range of stories and pictures of local interest and more than 40 display ads that inform people where to shop and easy-to-read legal notices that keep the public informed.

The Walters Herald, the only legal newspaper in southern Oklahoma’s Cotton County with a population of less than 5,500 people, does a good job informing readers of events and happenings throughout the area.



Each week its readers find City Hall news, local and area school and sports coverage. *The Herald* also has a great “Looking Back” column in each edition.

TOP FIVE HEADLINES:

5. “Man asks: ‘Is it against the law to burn my own house down?’”
– *The Lawton Constitution*
4. ‘And The Winner Is ...’
– *Kingfisher Times & Free Press*
3. ‘Makes people feel good’
– *Enid News & Eagle*
2. ‘Drop it, drop it, drop it!’
– *Woodward News*
1. ‘America The Beautiful Is Right Here’
– *The Chelsea Reporter*

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

Can your old computer handle new AI features?



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

We're moving towards more AI (artificial intelligence) features with the release of macOS Sequoia in September and Windows 11 updates.

However, these new fea-

tures come at a cost to users with older computers. One of the main problems I am seeing is computers on the edge of being able to update to the new sys-

tems. If the system only has 8 GB of RAM memory, the new macOS Sequoia or Windows 11 version may slow down the computer. AI takes more CPU load and RAM memory.

On Macs, the new macOS 15.x is really built for the "M" processor chips. It creates more overhead to translate to the Intel processor. These computers will be slower the more they depart from the system software their computer was released with.

A Windows 11 computer I saw was trying to chug along with just 4 GB of RAM memory. It was very slow.

If any computers in your office are like this, it is apparent. To get some speed, disable or uninstall the apps that are AI on older systems. On a Windows computer right click

the **Copilot** in the **All Apps** menu and choose **uninstall**. You can still use ChatGPT through a web browser if needed.

On Macs the new AI is more integrated into the system and harder to turn off. If AI software is not needed on older systems, turn off the auto update in system settings and only do the security updates.

Computers with 8 GB of RAM cannot be upgraded.

You should make sure you have a good Time Machine backup before doing any updates so the

computer can be reverted to the older system if needed.

Security updates on newer Macs and iPhones are very important as Apple devices seem to be a target for hackers. We recently had JavaScript, WebKit and ransomware attacks. If you have a newer phone, look at the update in the settings to see if there is a new one that needs to be installed. Newer Mac computers have also been a target so look in System Settings for security updates and apply them — after backing up the computer with Time Machine.

Windows 11 computers automatically update, forcing us to look at buying newer computers every few years.

When buying a newer computer make sure it has at least 16 GB of RAM memory since

many cannot be updated after they're purchased. The RAM should help you keep the machine for a few more years.

END OF YEAR CLEANUP

Christmas is upon us and New Year's Day will be here in a blink of an eye. As we future-proof our offices for the coming cold months look around for problems that might be resolved now.

Are all computers on good surge protectors? Is there some sort of humidifier or plants that are watered often to cut down on static electricity? How about a new welcome mat to cut down tracked in mud, which turns to dust in the office? You might check out worn-out office chairs, too.

Several newspaper offices have spruced up for winter to ward off the dull dark days with new plants and lights. Full spectrum lights for plants are great for people as well.

Spend time trashing unneeded files on computers to free up space. There are some great deals on flash drives right now if you need to keep those files for later use. Organize the drives with tags and include the date.

It's also a good time to organize your customer lists for next year's ad campaigns.

A great tool for helping clean up your address list can be found at <https://tools.usps.com/zip-code-lookup.htm>.

Take some time to learn

how to do a mail merge in Microsoft Word or InDesign. In InDesign it's located under **Window > Data Merge**. In Word, look under the **Mailings** tab. Then look at the **Start Mail Merge** button.

Organize your desktop by creating folders that help with building the paper by storing files. A simple filing system can save a great deal of time over a day.

Also, clean up broken links to network drives, which slow the computer down. The computer looks over the entire network for the drive each time it is restarted or the network is accessed.

On Windows, a little "X" appears on the file if the computer can't find the associated drive on the network. Right click and delete the file; it may take a while to go away so keep trying until it does.

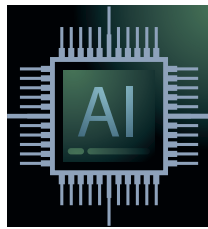
Old printer setups where the printer no longer exists can also slow the machine. On a Windows computer just delete them at **Settings window > Devices > Printers and Scanners**. Click once on the printer and then click **Remove Device**.

On a Mac go to the **Apple > System Preferences** or **System Settings** then to **Printers and Scanner**. Choose the old printer setup and click the **Minus sign** at the bottom of the window.

Don't forget to clean up your templates, get rid of any unused Paragraph Styles, as well as any artwork on the pasteup board. You could also organize art into a searchable library.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

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.

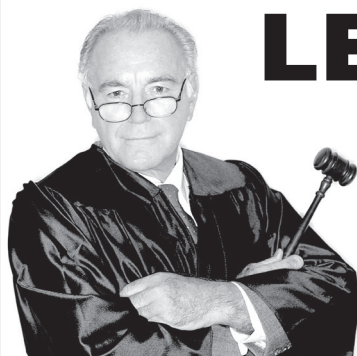


LEGAL ADVICE

is just one of the benefits of being a member of the Oklahoma Press Association's Legal Services Plan. Remove the worry of needing professional advice by enrolling today. For more information contact:

**OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSOCIATION'S
LEGAL SERVICES PLAN**

1-888-815-2672 or 405-499-0020



NNA members approve slate of officers for NNA, NNAF

National Newspaper Association members approved the slate of officers at their 138th Annual Convention and Trade Show.

Martha Diaz Aszkenazy, San Fernando Valley Sun, California, was named chair, and Jeremy Gulban, CEO of Cherry Road Technologies in Parsippany, New Jersey, was named treasurer.

Jeff Mayo, publisher/president of Cookson Hills Publishing Inc. in Sallisaw, Oklahoma, was reelected as the NNA vice chair, a position he has held the last two years. Five of the last six generations of the Mayo family have been in the newspaper business in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

NNA membership also approved three new NNA directors for one-year terms: Peggy Scott, assistant publisher, Leader Publications, Festus, Missouri; Peggy Year, co-publisher, Northeast Nebraska News Company, Hartington, Nebraska; and Brian Alfrey, executive director, Utah Press Association.

DEATHS

KENNETH OWEN 'KEN'

REID, former publisher of the Weatherford Daily News, died December 9, 2024. He was 98.

Reid was born August 26, 1926, in Weatherford. After graduating from high school, he joined the World War II effort where he served in Hawaii.

After returning, he earned a journalism degree at the University of Oklahoma. Reid met his future wife, Phyllis Ruth Colpitt, at OU and they were married in 1948.

His first job after graduating from OU was at the Claremore Progress. After four years in Claremore, he and his partner Ed Burchfield purchased the Pauls Valley Daily Democrat and the Reid family

made their home there for the next 19 years.

Reid and Burchfield later added the Wewoka Daily Times and Frederick Daily Leader to their collection. They sold the three daily papers in 1968.

Reid purchased the Weatherford News in 1972 and converted the weekly into a semi-weekly the next month and into an off-set daily the following year.

He and Phyllis owned and operated the newspaper for 26 years, with his sons, David and Phillip, engaged in the business with him for 12 of those years.

After retiring in 1998, the Reids enjoyed spending time at their cabin in Arkansas until Phyllis passed in 2015.

Reid later married Billie Joe Johnston and they made their home in Weatherford and Oklahoma City.

Reid served as president of the Oklahoma Press Association in 1979, as president of the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation in 2003, and was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2016.

Reid is survived by his wife, Billie Joe Reid; brother Gary Reid; daughter Terry Magill and husband Bruce; daughter Ruth Anne Colley; son David Reid and wife Myra; son Phillip Reid and wife Jeanne Ann; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Please donate to the OKLAHOMA NEWSPAPER FOUNDATION

Donations to the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation will support its efforts to improve the state's newspaper industry and quality of journalism.

Checks may be sent to

OKLAHOMA NEWSPAPER FOUNDATION

3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499

or donate online at okpress.com/donations/

Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year.

Martha Elizabeth Sullivan, November 27, 2023

OPA STAFF DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION

MARK THOMAS, Executive Vice President
mthomas@okpress.com, (405) 499-0033

JEANNIE FREEMAN, Accounting Manager
jfreeman@okpress.com, (405) 499-0027

SCOTT WILKERSON, Front Office/Building Mgr.
swilkinson@okpress.com, (405) 499-0020

MEMBER SERVICES

LISA SUTLIFF, Member Services Director
lsutliff@okpress.com, (405) 499-0040

ALEXIS MARSHALL, Member Svs. Coordinator
amarshall@okpress.com, (405) 499-0035

ADVERTISING

LONDON COBB, Sales Director
lcobb@okpress.com, (405) 499-0022

CINDY SHEA, Advertising Director
cshea@okpress.com, (405) 499-0023

DIGITAL NEWS TRACKING

KEITH BURGIN, Digital News Tracking Mgr.
kburgin@okpress.com, (405) 499-0026

JENNIFER CATES, News Tracking Staff
jbeatley-cates@okpress.com

SHARON BEUCHAW, News Tracking Staff
sbeuchaw@okpress.com

CREATIVE SERVICES

JENNIFER GILLILAND, Creative Services Director
jgilliland@okpress.com, (405) 499-0028

AUSTIN ANDERSON, Creative Services Assistant
aanderson@okpress.com, (405) 499-0031

CONSULTATION / ADVICE

WILMA NEWBY, Computer Consultant
wnewby@okpress.com, (405) 659-0596

ROD SERFOSS, Business Consultant
rserfoss@okpress.com, (580) 309-0531

GENERAL INQUIRIES

(405) 499-0020, Fax: (405) 499-0048
Toll-free in OK: 1-888-815-2672

OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OCTOBER WINNERS

Column: **TODD BROOKS**, *The Comanche Times*

Editorial: **DAVID STRINGER**, *The Lawton Constitution*

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

DAVID STRINGER, *The Lawton Constitution*

'It's the First Amendment, stupid': Judge

It's stunning to contemplate the political flexibility that exists in the nation today. Too many elected officials will rail against corruption, demonizing a person in another party, only to claim a miscarriage of justice if they or one of their allies puts themselves in similarly uncomfortable positions. At best, you'll hear crickets or, worse, attack the good work of others simply doing their jobs.

The same can be said for opinions related to any number of issues these days. We're ready to attack pork barrel projects of others, while defending our own requests as vital to the economic well-being of the area. Or the wasteful actions of FEMA helping disaster victims. But if there's a disaster here, they darned well better be on the ground before the winds have even died down.

It leaves you wondering if some of these folks have any skeletal structure at all as they twist themselves into positions a contortionist would be proud of. So it's heartening to see someone get called out on their disingenuousness and their purely political motivations exposed.

We're talking about the state of Florida.

The issue happens to be a campaign to overturn the state's six-week ban on abortion. Voters will soon go to the polls to weigh in but the state took to threatening TV

stations that aired commercials supporting the change in law. Simply, to protect their position, they seek to silence the opposition.

The state health department, which opposes the change, sent cease and desist letters to stations stating the ads were "false" and "misleading." Hello? It's political advertising. And though it often makes us uncomfortable as well, political speech has been given the widest of berths by the courts.

It's also interesting that the health department's general counsel who sent the cease-and-desist letters since resigned stating that "a man is nothing without his conscience," and adding "it has become clear in recent days that I cannot join you on the road that lies before the agency."

It's not lost on us that Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill in 2021 to push back on what was termed as "guaranteed protection against Silicon Valley's elites." He said at the time "Many in our state have experienced censorship and other tyrannical behavior firsthand in Cuba and Venezuela. If Big Tech censors enforce rules inconsistently, to discriminate in favor of the dominant Silicon Valley ideology, they will now be held accountable."

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

TODD BROOKS, *The Comanche Times*

In memory of the Hrubys

It was just like any other Monday – or so I thought – 10 years ago when I arrived to work at The Marlow Review on Oct. 13, 2014.

The end of the previous week had been somewhat odd. Our boss, John Hruby, had not shown up the previous Friday. Someone in the office had tried to reach out to him, but there had been no response. We thought since it was the weekend of the Oklahoma-Texas football game the family may have decided to go down to Dallas and he hadn't been near his phone. He was the boss. He owed us no explanation for his absence, so we went about our daily routines.

On Monday I made my usual drive toward Duncan down Highway 81 for the Stephens County Commissioners meeting. I would pass him driving the opposite way toward the office in his familiar pickup truck on most Mondays. That day, though, I didn't see his truck.

I discovered the courthouse was closed when I arrived. It hit me that it was Columbus Day so there would be no meeting.

I was still mad at myself for wasting the time and gas

for the trip to Duncan when I arrived back at the office. I passed by the desk of one of my co-workers who was on the office phone. She was visibly upset. I asked her what was wrong. She said, "I think John and Tinker are dead." In shock, I sank to the ground with my back against the wall.

When we got the confirmation that they, along with their daughter Katherine, had been murdered in their home, we locked the office door. The four of us had no idea if the murders had been personal or newspaper-related. If it was the latter, we could be next. I called the police department and asked them to keep an eye on us throughout the day just in case. I tried thinking of stories we had run that would cause a person to commit such an atrocious act. I could not think of one.

Despite everything that happened, and with the employees still in shock, we were determined to put a newspaper out that week. That meant leaving the office to get news. Later in the day as word started to spread, we made a Facebook post as a staff confirming the report.



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

The October 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 amarshall@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.