

Legislative Summit set for February 6



February 6 is the date of the Oklahoma Press Association's annual Legislative Summit at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

The summit begins with a short group meeting and discussion of legislative issues affecting news organizations followed by an opportunity to meet with your legislators. Contact your elected officials in advance to schedule a meeting between 10:00 and 11:30 a.m.

A free BBQ lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. with the afternoon scheduled to hear from state leaders.

The meeting is free but registration is required. To register, go to okpress.com/legislative-summit.

Visiting legislators at their

Capitol offices makes an impact. Legislators listen to people that come to the capitol to express their concerns.

Every organization, including those that oppose our interests, go to the capitol to demonstrate commitment to their legislative goals and desires.

"Legislators notice when folks from back home come to the Capitol even if they don't get much time to spend with you," said OPA Executive Vice President Mark Thomas.

"Your presence sets the stage for future conversations back home. It lets legislators know that you intend to be legislatively active on issues important to the news media industry."

Oklahoma Publisher changing print frequency

The Oklahoma Publisher is distributed monthly as an e-edition to all OPA members, state officials, legislators and other state press associations.

In addition, the publication has been printed and mailed to members each month.

Beginning this month, the print frequency will change to quarterly, but the e-edition will continue monthly.

"Membership feedback suggests the members enjoy getting the e-edition and read it quickly. Following up with a print edition of the same content seemed duplicative, and printing and postage costs continue to increase," said Mark Thomas, executive vice president of the Oklahoma Press Association.

"Our plan is to continue monthly e-editions and change print frequency to four times a year to maintain our Periodicals permit. The Board of Directors will review this plan annually as part of the association budget process."

The Oklahoma Publisher traces its origins to March 1930 when Volume 1, Number 1 rolled off the press as

the official publication of the Oklahoma Press Association.

In an introduction to the new publication, then OPA President W. R. Martineau wrote, "The Oklahoma Press Association ... finds it necessary, in order to bring its membership into closer contact with one another, to have a permanent journal serving the organization."

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From the President

By Shauna Belyeu

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



Here's to the next 52

January, the month when you look back over the previous year and plan for the racing year ahead.

It is contest preparation time, quarterly scheduling time and a time to book the standing meetings for the year ahead.

As I look back at the past 52 weeks to review our top news weeks for contest submissions, I am reminded of all the long days and nights that our team puts in covering meetings and weekend events. On the shelves I see 52 city council meetings, 52 school board meetings, sporting events and the many festivals that we sweat through in the heat of the summer.

This walk through 2024 led me to some analytic research on the year's coverage of civic, school and chamber events as well as coverage of our county commissioners and our state government. I ran a search on the number of times each of these was referenced throughout the year.

The results were quite compelling. Our weeklies referenced city government and events over 300 times, the schools more than 400 times and chamber events more than 100. We are there for the preparation of events all the way to end-of-the-day coverage, from the

campaigns to the bills that were signed.

Newspapers that maintain strong local government coverage play a vital role in community engagement and attract advertisers seeking to reach an informed and active audience. We just have to remind them of our impact.

Having said that, plan to make an impact and join us at the Legislative Summit on Feb. 6.

Publishers and editors are encouraged to plan ahead to speak with their legislators about upcoming bills that affect newspaper interests. It is your chance to visit your representatives in their environment and for us to collectively remind them of the coverage that we provide throughout the year as well as advocating to protect public notice.

The team at the association does a great job organizing this event to give us a venue to express our views as well as fostering those relationships, which is more important now than ever. We hope to see you there.

I wish you all a healthy and happy year ahead. I hope you find a moment to relax, have yourself a cup of coffee and maybe even pick up a good book as we prepare to tackle the next 52.

OPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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. Register for this meeting at okpress.com/legislative-summit

Mon., February 17 ONF STUDENT INTERNSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

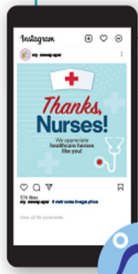
In the past 17 years more than 300 college students have interned at Oklahoma newspapers with their salaries funded by the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation, the non-profit affiliate of the OPA. Interns' pay is \$12 per hour.

Applications for the 2025 paid summer internship program are now available. The deadline for student applications is Feb. 17. The program is made possible by a grant from the Inasmuch Foundation.

Fri., June 6 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Join us for our annual OPA Convention at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort 777 Grand Casino Blvd Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804

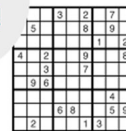
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Got News?

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

Collington visits newspaper club

Jason Collington, editor of the Tulsa World, recently met with the Newspaper Club at Spring Creek Elementary School in Broken Arrow.

The group meets on Wednesday mornings before school and is made up of journalists in third through fifth grades.

The journalists in the club, who wear plastic press passes when they are on the job, publish the Spring Creek News.

Collington said two teachers, Sonya Gamble and Shae Patterson, started the club last

year with third grade and then this year added fourth- and fifth-graders.

Collington talked to the students about the life of a journalist and explained the role of journalism.

"I appreciate what Gamble and Patterson are introducing to these scholars," Collington wrote in a column about his visit. "Media literacy is at an all-time low, and it's important to know what is going on around you. Providing that information is something we

work every day to do for our readers.

"That's why Lee Enterprises, which owns the Tulsa World, supports our News for Students program, which gives teachers and their students complimentary unlimited digital access to tulsaworld.com during the school year."

Collingtons said more than 1,100 teachers in the Tulsa area signed up for the program this year and they hope to open up enrollment for the program again in August.

Esther Dean celebrates 37 years

Esther Dean, the Black Chronicle's director of graphic design, recently celebrated 37 years with the company.

Dean began working at The Black Chronicle in November 1987. She was hired by the late Albert J. Lindsey, who served as executive editor for more than 40 years before his passing in August 2024.

"We are blessed to have good people like Esther," said

Russell M. Perry, who founded The Black Chronicle in 1979.

Throughout the years, Dean has laid out hundreds of newspaper pages covering significant local and national events.

Dean said she looks forward to retiring someday, but no time soon. She is still learning and growing.

"I like to keep busy, keep working," Dean said.



ESTHER DEAN

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!



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OG&E PHOTO CONTEST



NOC Enid's Max Hellwig heads the ball towards goal against Rose State's Jake Martinez and Aden Lino during the NJCAA Region II Tournament.

Photo by BILLY HEFTON, Enid News & Eagle, November 1, 2024



The WWII Airborne Demonstration Team hosted October Jump School. Pictured is the team's C-49, Wild Kat, dropping paratroopers over the drop zone.

Photo by KATHLEEN GUILL, Frederick Press-Leader, November 1, 2024

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

**BILLY
HEFTON**

Enid News & Eagle

NOVEMBER 2024
WEEKLY WINNER:

**KATHLEEN
GUILL**

Frederick Press-Leader

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



OG&E

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McAlester street renamed to honor James Beaty

A street in McAlester was recently renamed in honor of longtime McAlester News-Capital managing editor James Beaty.

The renamed street runs parallel to the News-Capital office.

Beaty reported for the News-Capital for more than 38 years when he died May 12, 2023.

McAlester City Councilors unanimously voted to act upon an ordinance in August that officially changed the name of the street.

The city's Planning Commission unanimously voted in July to recommend the change that was put into motion by McAlester Ward 6 Councilman Kevin Beaty, who is no relation.

A ceremony was led by Adrian O'Hanlon, the city's public information officer, who worked with Beaty at the McAlester newspaper for nearly a decade.

"James wasn't just a journalist. He was a friend to this community and a voice for those who needed to be heard," O'Hanlon said.

Over the years, Beaty's



McAlester Ward 6 Councilman Kevin Beaty, left, and McAlester Mayor Justin Few, right, stand with members of James Beaty's family who hold a street sign dedicated to the late McAlester News-Capital managing editor.

(Photo by Derrick James, McAlester News-Capital. Reprinted with permission.)

,writing helped expose several issues related to corruption and nepotism in local governments — and earned him several state and national awards for his reporting. He was inducted

into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2017.

Beaty's wife, Sheri, said his family is "humbled and proud."

"It's such a wonderful way to pay tribute to him.

"He would be overwhelmed if he knew the love and respect he had earned from the folks in and around McAlester. We, as his family, are touched and blessed."

**OKLAHOMA
PRESS**

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OPA Board of Directors December meeting

The Oklahoma Press Association Board of Directors met by video conference call on December 12, 2024.

Officers attending were President Shauna Belyeu, The Eufaula Indian Journal; Vice President Suzie Campbell, Countywide & Sun, and Treasurer Brian Blansett, The Lincoln County News.

Directors attending were Past President Sheila Gay, Woodward News; Erin Dyer Thompson, El Reno Tribune; Ed Choate, Muskogee Phoenix; Brett Wesner, Wesner Publications; Shaun Witt, Oklahoma Watch; and Connor Choate, Marietta Monitor. Jason Collington, Tulsa World, was unable to attend.

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

After the meeting was called to order, board members suspended reading and approved minutes of the October 3, 2024, meeting.

The board reviewed OPA and LSP financial statements as of October 31, 2024. Thomas said the OPA tax return for the period ending June 30, 2024, had been filed and paid in full. Board members acknowledged receipt of the OPA and LSP financial statements and investment reports as well as the tax return.

The board discussed the OPA building's air conditioning system, which uses a thermal storage system that

chills water in a 36-foot tall, 8,000-gallon tank. In October, Thomas reported to the board that the 40-year-old pipes carrying water to and from the tank needed to be replaced. The board reviewed and approved a recommendation from the executive committee comprised of President Belyeu, Vice President Campbell, Treasurer Blansett and Past President Gay for the inspection of the water tank. The inspection was scheduled for December 16.

Based on the condition of the tank, the board authorized Thomas to either replace the underground pipes or abandon the existing tank and pipes and install a new tank and connecting pipes in the basement.

MEMBERSHIP

The application for General News Media membership submitted by Oklahoma Voice was approved. Notice of the application was published in the October issue of The Oklahoma Publisher.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Choate said the Awards Committee made four recommendations for the OPA Board's consideration as follows:

Changes to the Better Newspaper Contest include:

1) Merge the two daily/online-only divisions with the one semi-/tri-weekly division so they compete together in three divisions sorted by city population; 2) Reduce the

number of weekly divisions from five to four to increase competition and reduce the number of combined divisions in the individual categories; and 3) In an effort to recognize consistent performers, require that two of three issues in the three categories of News Content, Layout & Design and Advertising be from specific months. The third issue can be from any date in the contest period.

The committee also recommended the creation of a Public Notice Journalism monthly contest to emphasize the importance of public notice and assist OPA's advocacy efforts to preserve constructive public notices in legal newspapers. The contest would be sponsored by Oklahoma Press Service.

The board approved the committee's recommendations as written.

Witt said the Education Committee met at the OPA office on October 24 to begin planning the 2025 Convention, which will be held June 6-7 at the Grand Casino Hotel and Resort in Shawnee. The convention theme will be based on the popular Monopoly board game. General speakers include Leonard Woolsey, president of Southern Newspapers, Inc.; Attorney General Gentner Drummond and State Auditor and Inspector Cindy Byrd.

In the Government Relations Committee update, Wesner said the committee met four times in the past two

months to discuss legal notice rates and the definition of a legal newspaper.

Choate said the LSP Committee approved two new members, Stigler News-Sentinel and Oklahoma Voice.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the board reviewed the OPA-OSU Endowment Fund Report for the period ending June 30, 2024, and the list of five students who were awarded scholarships while working at The O'Colly student newspaper.

The board also:

- Approved a change to the OPA board policies reflecting current membership classifications eligible for board service;
- Reviewed the Conflict-of-Interest Statement; and
- Reviewed and approved a Whistleblower Policy that provides procedures and guidelines for any board or staff member to report unethical, illegal or fraudulent behavior within the organization.

OKLAHOMA PRESS SERVICE BOARD MEETING

Board members approved minutes of the October 3, 2024, meeting as presented.

The board also reviewed OPS financial statements as of October 31, 2024. Treasurer Blansett said OPS is making quarterly tax estimate payments at the advice of its tax accountant. The board acknowledged receipt of the OPS financial statement as presented.



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

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

Contest entries, nominations due Feb. 10

It's time to make your move to see how your news organization stacks up to publications of similar size by entering the Oklahoma Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

The annual Better Newspaper Contest honors publications and individuals on your staff for work that was done in 2024.

One publication in each division will receive the contest's highest honor by being named the Sequoyah Award winner.

For individuals, there are categories including online projects, writing, ad creation, photography and layout to compete in.

The Better Newspaper Contest is open to current OPA Legal Newspapers, General News

Media members and all college news media organizations.

The deadline to submit contest entries is February 10. For complete contest rules, see okpress.com/contest.

OTHER AWARDS

This year there are even more opportunities to nominate yourself or someone on your staff for an individual award.

New this year is the A-Mark Prize for Investigative Reporting. The award, funded by the A-Mark Foundation, recognizes excellence in investigative reporting by Oklahoma print and digital media journalists.

The A-Mark award will present a \$5,000 cash prize to the reporter and \$2,500 to the news outlet for first place; \$3,000 to the reporter and \$1,500 to the news outlet

for second place; and \$2,000 to the reporter and \$1,000 to the news outlet for third place.

Weekly and semi-weekly legal newspapers are eligible to enter the Ray Lokey Memorial Award for Excellence in Reporting. This award, established by readers of the Johnston County Capital-Democrat to honor its former Publisher Ray Lokey, includes a \$500 prize and plaque.

The ONF Joseph H. Edwards Outdoor Writer of the Year contest honors a writer whose published work exemplifies and captures passion for the outdoors with \$500 and a plaque. The award was established to honor Joe Edwards, former publisher of the Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise from 1993 until his death in 2006.

OPA Legal Newspaper and General News Media members are also eligible to enter the OPA Magazine Contest.

Nominations are open for the ONF Beachy Musselman Award. Now in its 56th year, this award – named after the late Norman Beachy Musselman, former editor and general manager of the Shawnee News-Star — is presented annually to recognize a journalist for his or her contribution to the field of printed journalism or its related field.

If you or one of your co-workers have worked in the industry for 25 or 50 years, mark this important milestone with a nomination into the Half Century and/or Quarter Century Clubs.

The deadline to enter all contests or make a nomination is February 10. For more information, visit okpress.com/contest.

All awards will be presented June 6-7 during the annual OPA Convention at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort in Shawnee, OK.



\$15,000 in cash awards for A-Mark Contest



The A-Mark Foundation is proud to announce the A-Mark Prize for Investigative Journalism in Oklahoma that offers a total of \$15,000 in cash awards.

A-Mark is dedicated to supporting and encouraging journalism and investigative reporting through grants to organizations that offer awards recognizing journalistic excellence.

The foundation hopes that the prizes lead to increased recognition and support for journalism and investigative reporting across the United States.

"We hope that providing a monetary award to both journalists and investigative reporters and their media outlets will enable more important work to be published," it states on their FAQ sheet.

Prize awards are as follows:

FIRST PLACE:

\$5,000 to the reporter
\$2,500 to the news outlet

SECOND PLACE:

\$3,000 to the reporter
\$1,500 to the news outlet

THIRD PLACE:

\$2,000 to the reporter
\$1,000 to the news outlet

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Journalist's initiative and effort
- Uncovering facts that were

unknown to the public and/or may have been deliberately hidden

- An issue of public importance
- Demonstration of excellence in storytelling, data collection and interpretation, documentation, presentation and reader involvement where appropriate, and
- Results.

The Oklahoma contest is open to staff of publications that are current OPA legal newspaper and general news media members, as well as non-member publications that meet the qualifications of legal or general news media membership in OPA. All entries

must have been previously published in print or on the publication's website during the 2024 calendar year.

Up to five articles on a single project or topic may be submitted but is limited to one entry per writer.

Entries must also include a written statement (500 words or less) outlining the background and scope of the work and any potential outcomes resulting from the reporting.

There is no entry fee and all entries will compete together.

Entries must be submitted online at betternewspapercontest/opa by Monday, Feb. 10.

For more information about the A-Mark Foundation visit amarkfoundation.org.

Seminole Producer offers free funeral to drivers who drink

The Seminole Producer once again offered a free funeral to anyone who drank, drove and died on New Year's Eve in Seminole County.

As with any contest, there were some restrictions. An application for the free funeral had to be submitted by noon on Dec. 31.

"The winner will get the cheapest funeral we can buy," said Seminole Producer Publisher Mike Gifford. "The coffin will be just a pine box and a shallow grave will be dug."

The Producer started the promotion in 1986 to remind readers that drinking and driving is dangerous.

The campaign has produced international attention. Stories on the campaign have been published in newspapers from Florida to Sweden and both Ted and Stu Phillips, former Producer publishers, were interviewed on television and radio nationwide.

Gifford said the Producer has never had to pay for a funeral and only a few application forms have ever been received, including one year when someone filled out a form in the name of the police chief.

WIN A FREE FUNERAL!

All you have to do is:

-  Drink
-  Drive
-  Die



The Original
Free Funeral
Offer Since 1986

Get Registration Form Online:
SeminoleOklahoma.com/freefuneral



You Booze
You Cruise
You Lose

☐ Yes, I will be Drinking and
Driving on New Year's Eve

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Phone _____
Signed _____

Mail to: Seminole Producer PO Box 431 Seminole OK 74818

*Some restrictions apply. Winner must sign up in advance by US Mail or personal delivery. No post-mortem entries accepted.
Deadline (no post intended) is Noon, December 31st 2024
Death must occur between 6p.m. December 31, 2024 and 6a.m. January 1, 2025 in Seminole County, Oklahoma.
Winner agrees to allow use of name and likeness for Alcohol Awareness publicity and advertising purposes. Terms and conditions of funeral will be at discretion of provider.

"Who will be taking you home tonight?"
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER YOU'LL HAVE A DESIGNATED DRIVER



The promotion has been copied over the years, but the Producer claims it is the original free funeral offer.

"It is the most successful alcohol education program ever printed in black and white," the late Stu Phillips once said. "Only one application over the years was actually going to drink and drive. Most are pranks, filled out by friends of sober people.

"But it makes people think, and that's what counts," Phillips said.

Kids are curious about vaping.

Answer their questions, share facts and open a dialogue with age-appropriate conversation guides.

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Guthrie's Night Before Christmas is a big hit



Looking Them Over

by Rod Serfoss
rserfoss@okpress.com

Thinking outside the box, **Guthrie News Leader** staff coordinated with city officials to come up with its own localized version of "Twas the night before Christmas" that was a joy to read.



"Twas the night before Christmas in Guthrie so bright, City staff was preparing, as the end of event season was nigh.

"The lights were hung from downtown buildings with care, in hopes that many visitors soon would be there.

"The police were hidden all along South Division, While desperately praying for no intoxicated collision.

"Dispatch was taking calls about a sleigh on a stoop, While Animal Control was tired of cleaning fresh reindeer poop.

"When out on Division St. there arose such a clatter, Guthrie Fire sprang from their beds to see what was the matter.

"Away to the tankers, they flew with great speed,

Down the fire poles, eager to proceed."

The story went on to include clever wording about the mayor, city council members, city manager and sheriff. It ended with:

"And all through the town, we could hear with delight, the rhythms of Christmas filling the night. They were dressed all in their Guthrie best smiling so bright yelling Choose Guthrie, Community Wins, Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."

Last summer, Norman Regional Hospital held a ribbon cutting at its new HealthPlex near I-35 and Tecumseh Road. In late November, **The Norman Transcript** discovered things aren't always as good as they look.

Transcript Editor Ben Fenwick's story on Nov. 27, titled "Norman Regional Hospital revenue bonds downgraded to 'junk'" brought to light problems surrounding the new hospital.

The story reported the downgrade was announced by Moody's in October but did not come to the attention of **The Transcript** until another company mentioned it in late November.

"Norman Regional Hospital's revenue bonds have been downgraded due to a 'precipitous decline in liquidity' following the resignation of its CEO and on the heels of a major facility upgrade," wrote Fenwick.

"Moody's Ratings, an internationally known bond credit rating business, has downgraded Norman Regional Hospital Authority's revenue bonds rating from Ba1, or 'stable,' to B1, 'significant credit risk,' according to a release from the firm.

The assessment from Moody's suggests Norman

Regional's income is not sufficient to meet its cash flow needs."

The Transcript also raised open meeting concerns on how the September 23 resignation of the hospital's CEO was handled.

According to **The Transcript**, after a six-hour meeting the board agreed in secret to accept his resignation.

Fenwick then wrote, "The board refused to tell a **Transcript** reporter the decision at the time of the meeting, which appears to have violated the state's Open Meeting Act. The hospital board is a public body by state law."

The Transcript is to be commended for informing the people of what is taking place behind the scenes in Norman.

The Shawnee News-Star's Helping Hands Awards is a great promotion that looks for people in the community who go above and beyond to make a difference by lending a helping hand to others in need.

Its promotional story said, "Do you know someone from the greater Shawnee area who selfishly volunteers their time, talent and lends a Helping Hand to others in the community? If so, please nominate them. Individuals will be selected to be featured in our Helping Hands magazine in February."

This is a great community service idea any time of the year and for newspapers of all sizes.

The News-Star regularly promotes the good things happening in Shawnee.

In December, it did a superb job filling each edition with numerous stories about holiday events, including picture pages of Oklahoma Baptist University celebrating the season with Christmas Chapel, work being done by

the Salvation Army and light displays around town. All this was topped off with a huge Community Calendar listing dozens of holiday activities in the area.

The Beckham County Record does an excellent job providing comprehensive news coverage for Elk City, Sayre, Eric and the area.

A typical front page includes a half dozen local stories including extensive crime reporting, local pictures and school news.

As readers navigate through the paper they are also treated to well-written and entertaining personal columns.

It is also good to see advertising on a regular basis promoting **The Record**.

One ad invites people to subscribe to the newspaper by guaranteeing "Prompt, Reliable Delivery!" Another reads "Share Stories With Us!" The ad then tells them how to send stories or story ideas to **The Record**.

TOP FIVE HEADLINES:

5. "A Special Moment"
— Okmulgee Times & Henryetta Free-Lance
4. "Typical hole in the wall joint..."
— Kingfisher Times & Free Press
3. "I'm so excited"
— Enid News & Eagle
2. "Police Can't Find Source of Eerie Voice Calling for Help"
— The Valiant Leader
1. "It will happen again, I can promise you..."
— Johnston County Sentinel

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

Set up your own NAS system for storage and backup



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

With prices increasing everywhere, some publishers are looking for ways to cut monthly subscriptions and storage options, which can quickly add up.

For instance, Google costs \$30 a year for 200GB; if you have to go to the next level it's 2TB for \$99 a year then increases again to \$600 a year for 10TB of data.

Many newspapers easily have that much data in old archived pictures. This isn't just Google; Microsoft can be just as pricey for its OneDrive and Apple is up there, too.

It can be more cost effective to have a NAS (Network Attached Storage) system on site to save data locally.

Synology NAS has solved the problem of remote access to files with the QuickConnect application — their version of a remote login program. It can connect over the internet without setting up port forwarding rules in the local router.

Users easily upload and download files to their desktop. Even employees working remotely can access files needed to build the paper.

A NAS system has redundant backup so if one drive fails it can be replaced with a new one. Large 8TB and even bigger can be put into these

Network Attached Storage devices.

It takes about three years for the system to pay for itself with current cloud pricing but the drives in the NAS systems have proven to last from 5 to 10 years without failing — and then only that part has to be replaced.

The other advantage to these systems is that even if the internet is down the paper still can be created on the local network and then sent on a flash drive to the printer.

Synology currently leads as the builder of NAS boxes. The least expensive starts at around \$200 without disks. The Synology 2-Bay NAS DS223 line is \$250. These have been workhorses for papers that use them and are expandable up to four drives.

The 8TB drives are around \$200. The 4TB drives are only \$84. If it's a two-bay station two drives of the same size are needed to set it up for always having backup.

The cheapest setup would be two \$84 drives plus the NAS at \$200 for a total of \$368 for the whole setup.

The QuickConnect program allows you to remotely connect to your Synology NAS, even on a phone.

POPULARITY OF MINIS

It seems that many companies are embracing the mini computer fad. There are even some owner-built computers

that are smaller than the new Mac Mini.

One of those is the Asus NUC 14 Pro. It's possible to get a bare bones system and build it to your specifications for only \$400 — or you can buy it already configured. The Asus has a "no tools" design making it easy to add memory and change the M.2 solid state drive. You can even add a 2.5-inch SSD for more storage.

This computer runs Windows 11 and supports AI. Asus has developed a very smart self-cleaning system. Air and dust are ejected through a channel built into the system fan, instead of collecting inside the computer.

The Asus mini Intel® Ultra 7 Processor 155H with 32 GB of RAM memory and a 1TB SSD drive costs around \$999.

A comparable computer is the Mac Mini M4 with 10 Core CPU, 10 Core GPU, 16 Core Neural engine, 32GB of RAM and 1TB SSD at around \$1,399.

These little Asus computers are built to be used in offices, not for gamers' desktops. The graphics card isn't the best but it can run several 4K monitors at the same time and can be useful in all types of environments.

One more mini computer to look at is the Minisforum DeskMini UM790 Pro Mini PC with an AMD Ryzen 9 7940HS processor. This one has a dedicated AMD Radeon

780M graphics card. It can work as a photo processing station and offers 8K video output and four video ports. Like the Asus, it's user configurable and priced at \$699 for the same 32GB of RAM and 1TB SSD.

DOWNLOAD ERRORS

Google Chrome's web browser sometimes gives errors when trying to download content from sites you know are safe.

To fix that problem, try these steps. In Chrome, enable the download by clicking the **lock icon** >, then click **site settings** >, scroll to **insecure content** and change the drop-down list from **Block** to **Allow**. Only do this on trusted sites.

Other browsers have different ways to deal with these kind of problems. Look for an **Advanced** button and go to **Allow** or **Continue to the Site** and tell the browser the site is something you consider safe.

Older versions of Java are now considered to be unsafe because hackers broke the security part of the code. This makes many older websites look unsafe to modern browsers. In addition, if the Microsoft security certificate is not current, the website sends errors in many browsers. Security certificates cost money so some websites lose out to the update game.

If you plan to update Java make sure to back it up first in case some older programs don't work with the new update. You want to be able to revert if needed.

Try to check and see if older web-based programs work with the new Java version before updating.

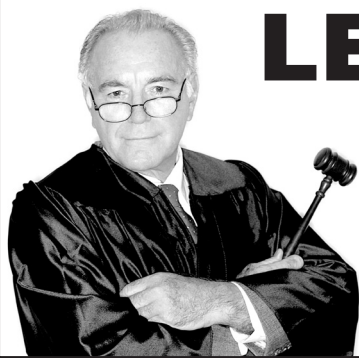
OPA Computer Consultant Wilma Newby's column is brought to you by the Oklahoma Advertising Network (OAN). For more information, contact Oklahoma Press Service at (405) 499-0020.

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DEATHS

JAMES ARTHUR 'JIM' PERRY, an editor and reporter for several Oklahoma newspapers, died December 25, 2024. He was 67.

Perry was born October 19, 1957, in Hobart. While in high school, he served as sports reporter for the Kiowa County Star-Review and Hobart Democrat Chief.

While attending Oklahoma State University, Perry served various roles for The Daily O'Collegian.

Perry served as managing editor of the Claremore Daily Progress for many years and later led newsrooms at the Owasso Reporter, Tulsa Front Page and Cushing Citizen.

Perry is survived by his wife, Diana, of Stillwater; daughter Jami Flint of Bullard, Texas; son Chris Perry of Dallas; three sisters, Nicki Hancock, Catherine Perry and Allison Madrid; and five grandchildren.

ORAN C. REDDEN, former owner and publisher of the Moore American and South Oklahoma City Leader, died December 12, 2024. He was 81.

Redden, who was born October 22, 1943, also owned several rural Oklahoma newspapers.

He served as the former president of both the Moore Chamber of Commerce

and the Oklahoma Cable Television Association. He also formerly served on the board of directors for the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property (NASASP) and was a former member of Moore Norman Vo-Tech.

Redden and his brother Jerry owned, built and maintained several cable systems in rural Oklahoma; a satellite dish com-

pany in Muskogee; a candle company in Cushing; and numerous video stores in the metro and rural areas of Oklahoma.

He is survived by his wife Candace "Candy" Redden; children Ramey Redden, Eddie Redden, Ashley Snell, Anthony Militar Jr., and Bridget Cox; brother Jerry Redden, sister Ann Blood; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Please donate to the

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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

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or donate online at okpress.com/donations/

Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year.

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December 2, 2023

C.R. Morris,

December 6, 2023

Phil Parrish

December 11, 2023

Larry Lynn Smith

December 30, 2023

Roy Eugene Deering Jr.

January 23, 2024

Robert Guy Mason

January 28, 2024

Kenneth Robert Milam

January 31, 2024

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NOVEMBER WINNERS

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

Editorial: **MIKE McCORMICK**, *The Lincoln County News*

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

MIKE McCORMICK, *The Lincoln County News*

Editorial

State School Supt. Ryan Walters continues his antics rather than being focused on leading the State Department of Education and trying to provide the best education system possible.

His latest play is recording a video of himself praying and directing school superintendents across the state to show it to their students and to send it to their parents.

From the information we've seen, most of the school superintendents are simply ignoring this ludicrous demand.

Our first question is how is this relevant to the education our students are supposed to be receiving in a public school and, secondly, why does Walters continue sending out directives that he has no business trying to enforce?

He continues to utilize state resources for his own personal agenda, which only serves as a distraction to the constituency he is supposed to serve.

Once again he has overstepped his authority by making such demands of our public school officials.

Back in August, Meeker's Board of Education took decisive action when its members voted unanimously in directing its School Superintendent, Jeff Pruitt, not to follow memorandums from the State Department of Education regarding Walters' Bible mandate.

In essence, the board told Walters that the Meeker School District is not going to follow the unconstitutional mandate requiring the Bible and Ten Commandments be incorporated into the curriculum of all classrooms from grades 5-12 beginning this school year.

State Attorney General Gentner Drummond told Walters several months ago he doesn't have legal authority to set curriculum. That responsibility lies with local school boards, he has asserted, and that is as it should be.

The Constitution is more important than Walters' political agenda and pandering.

Oklahomans deserve better from their State School Superintendent than the nonsense he keeps dishing out.

This video he recorded of himself praying for 90 or so seconds and demanding that it be sent out so students and parents can view it has no bearing on what teachers and students should be doing in the classroom.

All Walters continues doing is promoting himself rather than what he should be doing and that is his job leading the State Department of Education as we stated earlier.

We wouldn't even try to anticipate what his next antic might be, but rest assured it's doubtful that it has any significance to improving Oklahoma's educational system.

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

KIM POINDEXTER, *Tahlequah Daily Press*

Bezos right about endorsements, even if for wrong reasons

Several friends were incensed when Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos, the tycoon who also owns Amazon and other corporations, nixed an endorsement for Kamala Harris. I know of at least 16 people who, as of Friday morning, had canceled their digital subscriptions.

That's a drop in the bucket. On Halloween, Fortune Magazine reported WaPo had lost over 250,000 subscribers – not a trick for readers, and for the newspaper, not a treat, either. High-profile editors and opinion staff members resigned, but those talented journalists will find other jobs.

I am also a WaPo subscriber, and I'm staying put. Why? Because some of the country's best journalists still work there, and because WaPo remains one of the most reliable and accurate sources of national and international news, especially when it comes to the rancid politics of the Beltway. Ultra-conservatives may argue to the contrary, but they're not journalists, and if they think they know more about the industry than I do – I'm a 44-year veteran – they can suck a raw egg straight from the henhouse. Most of

them don't read newspapers, anyway, and certainly not perceived liberal rags like the Post.

I also want those journalists to keep their jobs, and I want WaPo to survive. I read Bezos' rationale, and from my standpoint as the editor of a community newspaper, I have to validate at least some of it. He said, "Presidential endorsements do nothing to tip the scales of an election. ..." He's right. People don't mind being told what to vote for – a school bond issue, a hotel tax, if they are convinced of its merit – and they don't mind being told what not to vote for. But they don't want to be told whom to vote for.

In 1986, when I was a reporter, TDP endorsed for every county and state office, and every one of our choices lost. Afterward, I was told by a few folks they suspected a quid pro quo arrangement – something Bezos was quick to deny, just as I was. But I began to view endorsements as the kiss of death. In small towns, everyone is kin to half of everyone else, and they go to church and Kiwanis Club meetings together. Endorsements open breaches in communities that aren't easily healed.



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

The November 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.

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