

OPA members engage with legislators at State Capitol

Members of the Oklahoma Press Association met at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City on February 6 to advocate for legislative issues affecting the industry.

OPA President Shauna Belyeu, general manager of The Eufaula Indian Journal, welcomed members to the Capitol.

“Legislators need to know our positions, and it’s vital that we share it with them. It’s important that we share our concerns about bills that affect us,” said Belyeu before turning the program over to OPA Executive Vice President Mark Thomas.

Thomas discussed several bills including HB 2167 by Rep. John Pfeiffer, deputy floor leader of the House. This bill would raise the legal rate for the first time in 20 years. Price per word would increase from 15 cents to 22 cents, and from 70 cents to \$1.10 per line for the first insertion.

“This is something that’s desperately overdue,” Thomas said.

Thomas also discussed HB 2166 by John Pfeiffer that amends the definition of legal newspapers and creates a second type of non-periodical paper. The bill also establishes requirements to post public no-



House Speaker Kyle Hilbert speaks to members of the Oklahoma Press Association at the annual OPA Legislative Summit on February 6 in Oklahoma City.

tices in front of paywalls and upload to a statewide site.

Thomas also discussed bills that would allow for more public access to records and notices and emphasized the importance of reporters reading public notices for news stories.

Members were then given the opportunity to meet with their legislators before an afternoon session that included presentations from House Minority Leader Cyndi Munson, House Speaker Kyle Hilbert, Senate Democratic Leader Julia Kirt and Senate President Pro Tem Lonnie Paxton, who discussed various legislative and policy issues.

Munson highlighted the Gov. Kevin Stitt’s focus on



Senate
Pro Tempore
Lonnie Paxton



Senate
Minority Leader
Julia Kirt



House
Speaker
Kyle Hilbert



Senate
Minority Leader
Cyndi Munson

cutting income tax, expressing concerns about the potential impact on state services.

Munson said what number one thing she hears from her constituents is about the economy.

“It’s about having struggles paying their bills,” Munson said. “So, I really try to think about what are things that

we can do to help everyday Oklahomans, and how we can prioritize them.”

Hilbert said the House recently approved a bill to prohibit students’ cell phone use during the school day, which was one of his chamber’s priorities.

“If we really want to make a

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From the President

By Shauna Belyeu

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



Summit unites OPA members

I want to thank everyone who attended the Legislative Summit on February 6.

The event is a very important one for OPA because our physical presence at the Capitol cannot be understated. This year we had nearly 50 publications represented at the event. It was a great, unified effort on the part of the OPA membership.

OPA Executive Vice President Mark Thomas and the OPA staff always do a great job of helping us navigate the legislative process and making the membership aware of the bills that affect our industry.

Public notice, public records and open meetings will always be among the most important issues for us and Mark keeps a watchful eye on any legislation related to these core issues.

This year, for the 60th Legislature, he reviewed almost 3,000 House and Senate bills that were filed this session and continues to track the ones that could affect our industry. A couple of those bills will impact our operations and we appreciate the OPA for working together with lawmakers to craft legislation that is crucial to us all.

We appreciate hearing from the leaders

who took the time to meet with us. House Minority Leader Cyndi Munson, Speaker of the House Kyle Hilbert, Senate Democratic Leader Julia Kirt and Senate President Pro Tem Lonnie Paxton all spoke to the group about the current session and their plans for the upcoming year. State spending and stabilizing the state coffers were among the main topics.

I enjoyed visiting with many newspapers at the Summit and appreciate you sharing your stories. Your insights and experiences are invaluable. I look forward to meeting with more of you in the future.

Moving forward, OPA board members will meet in April for a planning session for the 2025-2026 year. While we have a number of ideas we want to discuss, I welcome more input about your common challenges and successes. By sharing your experiences, we can work together to address common concerns and goals.

Please email me at shauna@cookson.news and let's continue the conversation. Please don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to hearing from you.

OPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information
on upcoming events visit
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Thu., February 27, 2025 AI'S IMPACT ON SEARCH MARKETING: ADAPTING TO A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Explore how artificial intelligence is reshaping search marketing by altering consumer behavior, reducing website visits through direct AI answers, and transforming search strategies.

Thu., March 13, 2025 USING AI TO SUMMARIZE PUBLIC MEETINGS

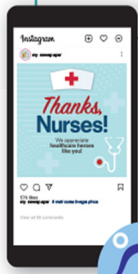
In this webinar, you'll learn how to leverage AI tools like ChatGPT to efficiently summarize lengthy YouTube transcripts of public meetings, such as city council or school board sessions.

See examples from publishers that are using these summaries to supplement their coverage of city/council and school board meetings.

Fri., June 6 ANNUAL CONVENTION

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Oklahoma journalists eligible to compete in Arkansas SPJ Diamond Journalism contest

Arkansas SPJ has announced the opening of the 2025 Diamond Journalism Awards.

The annual contest is open to professional and student journalists, freelancers and communications professionals.

The contest is open to Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas residents, and

entries can be made through March 3.

All Diamond Journalism Awards entries must be published or broadcast in 2024. A complete list of entry rules can be found at arkansasspj.org/2025-diamond-journalism-awards-entry-rules/. There are nearly 100 categories in 10 divisions ranging from traditional print and broadcast

content to podcasts, communications campaigns and more.

The Diamond Journalism Awards uses the Better BNC contest management platform for entries and judging and fees are submitted through PayPal.

All finalists will be recognized at the Diamond Awards event in July in central Arkansas. A listing of finalists will be announced prior to the event.

State Capitol

Continued from Page 1

difference in education, this is probably one of the biggest things we could do," Hilbert said.

The House also advanced a bill to reform administrative rulemaking, Hilbert said.

"We have to do a better job as a legislature of implementing, overseeing those administrative rules," he said.

Hilbert also discussed

the extension of legislative deadlines to allow lawmakers more time to review bills.

Kirt said her caucus is focused on public education, as well as health access and affordability.

"We really want to focus on higher paying jobs, building an economy that leads to higher paying jobs, and then always transparency and accountability."

Paxton said the Senate used the extra week of the legislative deadline extension

to hear from every agency head's need for more money as well as hear from some of the freshmen senators.

"Of the 39 Republican senators we now have, 11 of those are brand new," Paxton said. "Today we had a lunch where they could ask questions. We let them know what to expect next week; the committee work starts on the policy committees next week. I think we had a very successful first week."

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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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Reporters Committee welcomes Leslie Briggs as Oklahoma Local Legal Initiative staff attorney



Leslie Briggs

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press announced Leslie Briggs as its new Oklahoma Local Legal Initiative staff attorney, adding capacity.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Leslie Briggs to the Reporters Committee and to the Local Legal Initiative,” said Reporters Committee Vice President of Legal Lisa Zycherman. “Her depth of experience as a litigator in Oklahoma will help us meet the growing need in the state for legal support for local journalists and newsrooms,

especially those who are members of and covering the dozens of federally recognized tribes in the state.”

A Tulsa native, Briggs joins the Reporters Committee from the Oklahoma Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, a nonprofit that fights for justice and opportunity for all Oklahomans, where she served as its legal director. In that role, Briggs developed legal strategies challenging the deprivation of constitutional rights for LGBTQ+ public school students, curbing breaches to the separation of church and state by the executive branch, freeing unfairly incarcerated survivors of domestic violence, and reshaping the criminal competency restoration system in the state of Oklahoma.

“I’m excited to join the team at the Reporters Committee, and work with the journalists and newsrooms who are telling the important stories that Oklahomans care most about,” Briggs said.

Now in its sixth year, the Local Legal Initiative currently operates in five states — Col-

orado, Indiana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee — to help local journalists and news organizations defend their rights to gather and report the news, gain access to public records and court proceedings, and hold state and local government agencies and officials accountable.

Since the launch of the Oklahoma Local Legal Initiative in 2020, Reporters Committee attorneys have represented local journalists and newsrooms in a variety of litigation matters, including cases involving access to 911 call recordings, COVID-19 data, tribal government records, and more.

Reporters Committee attorneys helped the McCurtain Gazette access police body-worn camera footage related to the death of a Choctaw Nation citizen after a confrontation with police. The New Yorker later highlighted the Reporters Committee’s support in a story documenting the Gazette’s efforts to hold the local sheriff’s department accountable — and

the threats its reporters faced for doing so.

And through a successful lawsuit on behalf of The Frontier, Reporters Committee attorneys obtained access to jail surveillance footage, incident reports, and other records that revealed new information about the 2019 death of a Kiowa Tribe member following a violent struggle with jailers.

Outside of litigation, Reporters Committee attorneys have provided pre-publication review assistance to local journalists and news organizations, including the filmmakers of “Bad Press,” a documentary film chronicling the long fight for a free press on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation reservation in Oklahoma. They have also compiled a guide that helps journalists navigate press freedom and information access in Oklahoma’s federally recognized tribes.

For more information on the Local Legal Initiative, go to rcfp.org/local.

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OGE ENERGY CORP.

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oge.com

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC.

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

OKLAHOMA BAR ASSOCIATION

Lori Rasmussen
405-416-7016
lorir@okbar.org
okbar.org

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

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405-203-1318
jharlan@okdrs.gov
oklahoma.gov/okdrs.html

OKLAHOMA MEDIA CENTER

Rob Collins, Executive Director
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rob@oklahomamediacycenter.com
oklahomamediacycenter.com

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Chad Previch
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Lawton firefighter Zac Neighbors looks for an angle to attack a vacant house fire.

Photo by SCOTT RAINS, The Lawton Constitution, December 8, 2024



Chandler wrestler Shailey Penn looks for the referee to signal a pin during the First Annual Kyle Sam's Memorial Open Tournament.

Photo by JENNIFER PRYOR, The Lincoln County News, December 12, 2024

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Joplin Globe names Miller as publisher

Katherine Miller, who began her career in Joplin, Missouri, has been appointed as publisher of The Joplin Globe.

"I am very excited to be back in Joplin where I grew up, began my career and raised my children," she said. "I still have strong ties to this community with family and friends who reside here."



Katherine Miller

Miller, who was named publisher of The Norman Transcript and The Express-Star in Chickasha in 2023, will continue in those roles.

Prior to that, she served as group publisher of three Alabama newspapers owned at the time by CNHI, the parent company of The Globe, The Transcript and The Express-Star.

A native of Joplin, Miller began her career at the Globe in 1996 as advertising representative. She eventually became the Globe's assistant sales manager before serving as an executive at the Alabama papers in 2010.

Robyn McCloskey, executive vice president of newspaper operations for CNHI, said Miller's drive and proven track record of success will be "a tremendous asset for the Globe."

Deadline for FOI award nominations

The deadline for submitting nominations for 2024-25 Oklahoma Freedom of Information Awards is February 28, at 4 p.m.

Each year, FOI Oklahoma celebrates the people and organizations who exemplify the values of, and fight tirelessly for, transparency, freedom of information and the First Amendment.

Annual awards include the Marian Opala First Amendment Award, Ben Blackstock Award, Bickham/Hale Service Award, Sunshine Award and Black Hole Award.

For more information about the awards, visit foioklahoma.org/awards.

Online nominations may be submitted at foioklahoma.org/nominate.

Award winners will be announced during Sunshine Week in March and honored at the First Amendment Congress in October.

Oklahoma Joe ending weekly column

Oklahoma Joe recently gave his final farewell to the popular column in The Journal Record.

Joe Hight, who received the nickname 'Oklahoma Joe' when he lived and worked in Colorado, said he has decided Oklahoma Joe "needs to go in a different direction."

Hight said many factors contributed to the decision, particularly a May 1 deadline for a new book he is writing tentatively titled "The Traumatic Journey: A Moment in Time." The book is scheduled to publish in 2026.

"The book has been an

all-encompassing project," Hight commented in his final column in The Journal Record.

Hight said he might continue writing Oklahoma Joe again, "but I hope it's not as consistent and on deadline," he wrote.

"I will always remain Oklahoma Joe no matter where I go in life. My weekly journey with The Journal Record has



Joe Hight

ended, but my passion for the road ahead has not," he wrote.

Hight is director and a member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, an editor who led a Pulitzer Prize-winning project, the journalism ethics chair at the University of Central Oklahoma, president/owner of Best of Books, and author of "Unnecessary Sorrow" and lead writer/editor of "Our Greatest Journalists."



A successful entry will usually result from the newsroom having read the public notices and recognizing a news or feature opportunity coming from the subject of a particular public notice. Stories should reference the notice; or if the story is based on a public notice requirement that was not met or was deficient, it must describe the deficiency.

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John Link inducted into Vinita Hall of Fame

John Link, the late general manager of the Vinita Daily Journal, was posthumously inducted into the Vinita Hall of Fame at the 2025 Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce awards banquet on January 30.

Janet Link, John's wife, accepted the award on his behalf from VACC President Bruce Sooter.

John Link was a long-time supporter of the Vinita Community and Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce for almost three decades.

He died in 2021 leaving behind a legacy of

leadership and community teamwork.

For almost three decades he oversaw operations of the Journal, as well as several newspapers including the Nowata Star, The Afton American and the Grand Laker. He also managed the Vinita Printing Company during that time.

Along with his wife Janet, who was the Journal's longtime advertising manager before being named general manager, helped forge the Journal as an important icon in Vinita and Craig County.



Vinita Daily Journal General Manager Janet Link accepts a plaque inducting her late husband John Link into the Vinita Hall of Fame from Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce President Bruce Sooter. John Link was general manager of the Journal for nearly three decades.

(Photo reprinted with permission. Photo by Angela Thomason, Vinita Daily Journal.)

Tulsa launches \$14 million nonprofit news initiative

TULSA LOCAL NEWS INITIATIVE

A new nonprofit news organization serving Tulsa with independent, nonpartisan local news recently launched.

The Tulsa Local News Initiative is supported by a coalition of nearly 20 philanthropy and media partners who raised nearly \$14 million to launch the initiative.

The initiative is the new publisher of The Oklahoma Eagle, a historic, award-winning Black-owned newspaper that has served Tulsans for more than a century.

The initiative and Eagle owner Jim Goodwin reached an agreement for the new nonprofit organization to become the publisher and invest in an expansion of the newspaper's staff.

It will also invest in more journalism capacity for four local newsrooms — The Frontier, an investigative newsroom in Tulsa; KOSU, a public radio station operated by Oklahoma State University; La Sema-na, a Tulsa-based bilingual Spanish-English newspaper

serving Latino communities in the state; and Focus: Black Oklahoma, a radio program on issues relevant to BIPOC, rural and marginalized communities statewide.

Other partners include Tulsa World; KOTV, owned by Griffin Media; TulsaPeople Magazine of Langon Publishing; The University of Tulsa; and the Tulsa Press Club.

These partners have agreed to collaborate to make the most of journalism resources in Tulsa and beyond.

The Tulsa Local News Initiative is governed by a board of local and national industry and civic leaders: Goodwin, an attorney, healthcare advocate and owner of The Oklahoma Eagle; journalist and educator M. David Goodwin; journalist and philanthropist Emily Kaiser; Michael Ouimette, chief investment officer of the American Journalism Project; Rodger Randle, former mayor of Tulsa; Ashli Sims, managing director of Build in Tulsa; Marcia Bruno-Todd, executive director of Leadership Tulsa; and Tulsa business leader Sam Combs.

Gonzalez joins The Guymon Daily Herald

Gabrielle Gonzalez recently joined the staff of The Guymon Daily Herald as marketing executive and reporter.

Originally from the Houston, Texas, area, Gonzalez moved to Guymon in search of better opportunities and a fresh start.

Although she's only been in Guymon for two and a half months, she's already looking for ways to give back to the community.

"I really love the commu-

nity-focused atmosphere here and I am always looking to see where I can fit my talents and passions to further add to the enrichment of this community," she said.

In her new role as a reporter, Gonzalez will cover stories that matter to Guymon.

"I am being given the chance to give others a voice, to be seen and remembered, to feel special," she said.

"I want them to feel like they matter because they do."

Legislative Summit Snapshots

Photos from the February 6 OPA Legislative Summit in Oklahoma City.
To see more photos visit [Facebook.com/okpress](https://www.facebook.com/okpress).



Sarah and Todd Brooks, The Comanche Times, smile with Representative Stacy Jo Adams.



John D. and John Denny Montgomery, co-publishers of The Purcell Register, pose for a photo.



Susan Biggs, Tulsa Beacon publisher, smiles with Representative Gabe Woolley.



Rod Serfoss, OPA, chats with William Wesner, Wesner Publications.



Representative Dell Kerbs with Brian Blansett, The Lincoln County News.



Representative Carl Newton shows off his front page of Woodward News with Rachael Van Horn and Sheila Gay from the Woodward News.



Representative Steve Bashore shows off his front page of Miami News-Record with Publisher Phillip Reid.



Patrick Ford, Okmulgee Times editor, talks with OPA President Shauna Belyeu, The Eufaula Indian Journal.



Curtis Awbrey and Debi DeSilver, Southwest Ledger, pose for a photo.



OPA President Shauna Belyeu, The Eufaula Indian Journal, visits with Representative Neil Hays, Rodney Haltom and LaDonna Rhodes, McIntosh County Democrat.



William (left) and Brett Wesner (Right), Wesner Publications, smile for a photo with Representative Mike Dobrinski and Connie Burcham, Watonga Republican.



Shawn Witt, Oklahoma Watch, smiles for a photo with OPA Executive Director Mark Thomas.

OPA board members meet at State Capitol following February 6 Legislative Summit

The Oklahoma Press Association Board of Directors met at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City on February 6.

Officers attending were OPA 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 Jason Collington, Tulsa World. Connor Choate, Marietta Monitor, was unable to attend.

OPS staff attending was Mark Thomas, Executive Vice President/Secretary, and Lisa Sutliff, Member Services Director.

Belyeu called the meeting to order and asked board members to review minutes of the December 12, 2024, meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The board reviewed the OPA and LSP financial statements ending December 31, 2024. Thomas said revenue and expenses are similar to

last year. Thomas also said inspection of the OPA office building's air conditioning water tank, approved by the board in December, is in good condition. Underground pipes will be replaced as approved in December.

The board acknowledged receipt of the OPA and LSP financial statements and investment reports as presented.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Board members were also updated on activity of OPA committees.

The Education Committee confirmed Leonard Woolsey, president of Southern Newspapers in Texas, to speak Friday afternoon during the 2025 Convention, which will be held June 6-7 at the Grand Casino Hotel and Resort in Shawnee. Committee Chairman Witt reviewed the list of invited speakers.

Thomas provided the Government Relations Committee update. Legislative bills affecting open meetings, open records and newspaper industry were reviewed earlier in the day at the Legislative Summit. Thomas said Majority Deputy Floor Leader Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) is sponsoring OPA's two bills that would increase the legal notice

rates and revise the definition of a legal newspaper.

Gay reported that she will chair a meeting of the Nominating Committee at 10:30 a.m. on March 14 at the OPA office in Oklahoma City.

Campbell reported she will chair an online video meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee on March 28 at 10 a.m. Other committee members are Belyeu and Thompson.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the board reviewed candidates for OPA's highest honor, the Milt Phillips Award. After a vote by secret ballot, President Belyeu announced that Russell Perry, publisher of The Black Chronicle in Oklahoma City, will receive the 2025 Milt Phillips Award.

The board also reviewed the schedule for the April 10-11 Board Retreat in Eufaula.

OPS BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the December 12, 2024, meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

In reviewing the OPS financial statements, Thomas said ad sales commissions are lower than last year at this time, adding that several advertisers and organizations have postponed

advertising due to budget reviews and uncertainty about the economy with changes occurring at the federal level.

The board acknowledged receipt of the OPS financial statements as presented.

JOURNALISTS TO BE HONORED

In other business, Thomas and Collington noted that several newspaper journalists from OPA member newspapers will be inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame during its May 9 ceremony including retired Oklahoman Opinion Editor Owen Canfield; Enid News & Eagle Editor David Christy; retired Oklahoman copy chief Tom Maupin; and former Tulsa World Managing Editor Mike Strain, who retired in 2020.

OPA member journalists from the posthumous class are Dayle McGaha, longtime publisher of the Blackwell Journal-Tribune; Johnny McMahan, longtime editor of the Woodward News; Louise Earthman Rucks, who wrote a column for The Oklahoman for 36 years; Ellie Sutter, a reporter for The Oklahoman for nearly 23 years; and Jack Stamper, longtime publisher of the Hugo Daily News.

Lee Enterprise newspapers hit by cyberattack

Systems and networks at dozens of newspapers owned by Lee Enterprises, including the Tulsa World, were disrupted this month by a cyber attack.

"We are now focusing on determining what information

— if any — may have been affected by the situation," CEO Kevin Mowbray said in an email to company employees. "We are working to complete this investigation as quickly and thoroughly as possible."

Mowbray said the event

was reported to law enforcement.

In a Tulsa World article, Editor Jason Collington thanked print and e-edition readers for their patience while the situation was addressed.

"We will continue to publish any news as it breaks on tulsaworld.com," Collington said.

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Local food drive a success, thanks to efforts of sports editor



Standing in front of a pickup bed full of food is Rodney Haltom, sports editor of The Eufaula Indian Journal and McIntosh County Democrat; Brenda McMahan, administrative assistant for Under One Roof; and Shauna Belyeu, general manager of the Indian Journal and Democrat.

The 2024 Haltom's Huddle Food Drive was a success.

Rodney Haltom, sports editor for The Eufaula Indian Journal for more than 15 years, said he has learned the depth of the hunger issue over the years.

In 2024, he decided to do something about it.

Haltom set up collection points at newspaper offices in Checotah and Eufaula.

"I had a great response," Haltom said. "People from all over made donations, not just local but also from out of town."

In addition to food, money was donated.

"I went out and did a bunch of shopping for food," Haltom said. "It was a really good turnout. I had a pickup bed full of food."

Food was dropped off at Under One Roof in Eufaula as well as to the Methodist Mission in Checotah.

Haltom said he plans to make this an annual event.

"I hope it gets bigger and bigger," he said. "People don't realize the number of kids, and families in general, that this food is going to help."

"This will make a big impact on a lot of families."

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Oklahoma Journalism
HALL OF FAME

55TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

University of Central Oklahoma

4:00 PM

Dedication of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame Museum

UCO Liberal Arts Building

5:00 PM

Toast to Honorees Reception

Nigh University Center
Heritage Room

6:00 PM

Induction Ceremony Begins

Nigh University Center
Grand Ballroom

2025 CLASS

Dean Blevins
Owen Canfield
David Christy
David Fallis
Thomas C. Maupin
Vicki Monks
Oscar Pea
Dawn Shelton
Marshall L. Stewart
Mike Strain

55TH ANNIVERSARY POSTHUMOUS CLASS

Frederick Barde
Nolen Bulloch
Louisa McCune
Dayle McGaha
Johnny McMahan
Ora Eddleman Reed
Louise Earthman Rucks
Ellie Sutter
Bill Teegins

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

The late Jack Ogle
and his sons
Kevin, Kent and Kelly

To purchase tickets (\$75 per
person; \$78 by credit card, visit
okjournalismhalloffame.com/rsvp/

55TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame celebration to honor 20 journalists,
Ogle family as Lifetime Achievement and dedicate new museum at UCO*

Twenty longtime journalists and a prominent broadcast family will be among those honored at the 55th annual induction ceremony of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, May 9, in the grand ballroom of the Nigh University Center at the University of Central Oklahoma. A reception toasting the honorees will occur at 5 p.m. in the University Center's Heritage Room.

This year's event will be highlighted by:

- The 2025 Class of Dean Blevins, Owen Canfield, David Christy, David Fallis, Thomas C. Maupin, Vicki Monks, Oscar Pea, Dawn Shelton, Marshall L. Stewart and Mike Strain.
- A special 55th Anniversary Posthumous Class of Frederick Barde, Nolen Bulloch, Louisa McCune, Dayle McGaha, Johnny McMahan, Ora Eddleman Reed, Louise Earthman Rucks, Ellie Sutter, Jack Stamper and Bill Teegins.
- Lifetime Achievement induction of the late Jack Ogle and his sons, Kevin, Kent and Kelly.

The dedication of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame Museum in the Liberal Arts building on the UCO campus. The dedication of the new museum will be at 4 p.m. May 9. The ceremony will include a special film on the museum's content and is being produced by hall of fame members Tony Stizza and Galen Culver with special assistance from OJHF intern/scholarship winner Jake Ramsey.

"We decided to move the induction ceremony to an evening event this year because of the 55th anniversary and the large number of honorees this year," said Director Joe Hight, who is also UCO's Edith Kinney Gaylord Endowed Chair of Journalism Ethics and an OJHF member since 2013. "As with the 50th anniversary, we wanted to make this one special while focusing on the journalists who have excelled both in this state and the country. This year's honorees are exceptional in many ways.

All 24 honorees will become members of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, which now has inducted more than 525 members since its beginning.

They were chosen from among more than 100 nominations submitted to the hall of fame. They were first selected by a 15-member Finalist Committee and then a 12-member Selection Committee via a balloting process. All on the committees were hall of fame members and representatives of diverse types of media and journalism organizations.

Invitations to the induction luncheon will be sent by the first of March, and reservations at \$75 each must be made by April. More information can be found by going to the hall of fame website at okjournalismhalloffame.com. Sponsorship tables can be purchased starting at \$1,000 per table.

The Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame was founded in 1971 by former UCO Journalism Chair Dr. Ray Tassin and Dennie Hall, with both serving as directors. Hight is the fourth director and succeeded Dr. Terry Clark. All members are featured on the hall of fame website. Past honoree plaques are on display at the hall of fame gallery on the third floor of UCO's Nigh University Center.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: THE OGLE FAMILY

JACK OGLE (1930-1999) started in Norman radio in the 1950s and joined WKY-TV 4 in 1963 as a reporter and anchor. Simultaneously, he was the color commentator for University of Oklahoma football from 1961 to 1973 and Oklahoma State University football from 1974-1980 along with Bob Barry Sr. (an Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame member). Jack Ogle retired from day-to-day reporting in 1978 and for the next 12 years he produced commentaries, "A Real Oklahoman" for WKY-TV 4, KOCO-TV 5 and KWTW-TV 9 in Oklahoma City. Jack dominated the TV ratings for years and retired to eastern Oklahoma in 1990. Jack died in October 1999.

KEVIN OGLE (1958-) is the oldest son of Jack Ogle. After college at Kansas State and OSU, Kevin worked in the



JACK OGLE



KEVIN OGLE



KENT OGLE



KELLY OGLE

newsrooms at KSWO-TV 7 in Lawton, OK, KFSM-TV in Fort Smith, Ark., and for the past 27 years has been the principal anchor at KFOR-TV 4 in Oklahoma City.

KENT OGLE (1960-) is the middle son of Jack Ogle. Kent attended Central State University and then followed the tradition of his father Jack and brother Kevin with early career stints in local radio and then OETA. Kent joined KFOR-TV 4 in 1994

where he has anchored the morning news program for 30 years.

KELLY OGLE (1961-) is the youngest son of Jack Ogle. Kelly graduated from OSU in 1984 and then worked for three years at WKY Radio, a year at OETA, a year at KFOR-TV and from 1990 to 2022 was the principal anchor at KWTW 9 in Oklahoma City. Kelly currently teaches broadcast journalism at Oklahoma State University.

Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame 2025 Class



DEAN BLEVINS (1955-) is the preeminent sports media personality in Oklahoma after being a highly decorated athlete and sportscaster for over 40 years. Dean began in TV co-hosting SportsScene for Tulsa cable 1986-88. He anchored sports at KWTW since 1997, serving as sports director since 2001. He was lead anchor 1988-1993 for KOCO-TV and did college football with ABC, CBS and ESPN 1989-2001. He worked 40 years in radio and the Sports Animal since 1988. A two-time Emmy Award winner, Dean is an eight-time Oklahoma Sportscaster of the Year. A former University of Oklahoma starting quarterback, he played on national championship teams in 1974 and 1975 and earned the Jay Meyer Top Scholar Athlete Award. Dean also received the Gaylord College Distinguished Alumni Award in 2014.



OWEN CANFIELD (1959-) covered hard news to sports for a small newspaper, The Duncan Banner, to the state's largest, The Oklahoman. He spent nearly 20 years with The Associated Press and was AP's first reporter at the Edmond post office massacre in 1986. He helped with the Oklahoma City bombing coverage in 1995, witnessed two executions and assisted with coverage of major weather stories and trials. He was named AP-Oklahoma sports editor in 1985. Responsibilities included OU and OSU, but he also covered major golf tournaments, NCAA Final Fours and five Olympic Games. He became The Oklahoman's editorial writer in 2003 and was named chief editorial writer in 2011. Four years later, he was named opinion editor until he left the newspaper in 2021.



DAVID CHRISTY (1949-) is a third-generation Oklahoma journalist who began his career at age 12 as an after-school and summer printer's devil at the family's weekly in Waukomis, The Oklahoma Hornet. He has worked in every facet of the newspaper industry — back shop to newsroom. He was a Linotype operator at 16 and attended the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism, where he worked on the Oklahoma Daily sports staff and OU Sports Information. He worked as sports editor at the daily Sherman (Texas) Democrat, returning to Waukomis to serve as editor, reporter, columnist and photographer. He currently is news desk editor and columnist at the Enid News & Eagle. He has been part of eight OPA Sequoyah Awards over a still ongoing 63-year career.



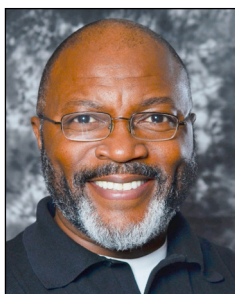
DAVID FALLIS (1964-) is deputy editor for investigations at The Washington Post. He grew up in Tulsa and graduated from the University of Oklahoma, starting his career in 1991 at the Tulsa Tribune as a police reporter. When the Tribune folded in 1992, he began reporting for the Tulsa World and eventually became an editor, leading a criminal justice team and running investigative projects that won regional awards. In 1999, he joined The Washington Post as an investigative reporter and became an editor in 2014. The following year, he helped lead an investigation of fatal shootings by police that won the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting. He also has been an editor or reporter on five other Post investigations that were recognized as Pulitzer Prize finalists.



THOMAS "TOM" C. MAUPIN (1950-) is a University of Missouri graduate. He worked as a reporter/photographer for two Missouri papers and as a copy editor in Kansas before joining OPUBCO in 1982. He became copy chief in 1989. He insisted on maintaining a high standard of style and accuracy. Tom helped write The Oklahoman's Style Manual. Tom was a finalist for the American Society of Copy Editors' Copy Editor of the Year Award in 2009. In 2010, he won first in Newspaper Headline Portfolio - Great Plains Journalism Competition and first in Headlines in the AP/ONE Competition. After retiring in 2016, he did freelance writing and photography for The Oklahoman until early 2018. He also did freelance work for the Moore Monthly and Moore Parks Department.



VICKI MONKS (1952-) is among Oklahoma's pioneering women journalists. As a reporter/photographer for KWTW in the 1970s, she won state and national awards, including for her women's prisons documentary. She then won a Peabody Award at Dallas' KDFW. After serving as the Center for Investigative Reporting's managing editor, she traveled worldwide free-lancing for NPR, BBC, CBS, National Geographic TV, Rolling Stone, Vogue and American Journalism Review. "Carbon Black," a radio documentary about failures to address industrial pollution of Ponca Indian land in Oklahoma, won a Society of Environmental Journalists award. An OU journalism graduate and journalism fellow at Stanford University and University of Colorado, she is an enrolled Chickasaw Nation member.



OSCAR PEA (1963-) has been a photojournalist for nearly 40 years. Pea was inspired by his father, a principal and hobbyist photographer who gave him his first 35mm camera at age 12. He earned his Communication Degree from Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA, in 1985. He has worked at WAFF-TV in Baton Rouge, then KFDA-TV in Amarillo, Texas. He joined News on 6 in Tulsa in 1988. Pea covered the Oklahoma City bombing and its subsequent trials, the Moore tornado, Hurricane Katrina and the Summer Olympics bombing in Atlanta. Pea has also covered stories internationally, from Bosnia to other countries where Oklahoma soldiers were sent. His focus was also covering all types of crime in Green Country. Pea has served as chief photojournalist and director of operations at News 6.



DAWN SHELTON (1968-) founded the online Luther Register News in 2015, addressing a critical need for local coverage in a rural news desert. A Michigan native, Dawn wrote a weekly column about her high school for her hometown newspaper before earning a mass communications degree from Oklahoma Christian University in 1990. She began her career as a reporter and producer for KTOK and the Oklahoma News Network. Settling with her family outside Luther, Dawn combined her career experiences to create a vital community resource. Her efforts extend beyond reporting—she launched the popular Luther Pecan Festival in 2017. A member of LION Publishers, Dawn is nationally recognized for her tenacity in championing community journalism and the ongoing challenge to make it sustainable.



MARSHALL L. STEWART (1949-) had his first radio "gig" on a Northern Oklahoma College campus station in 1970. Following four years in the Air Force during the Vietnam War, he worked at both campus stations at OSU in Stillwater, KVRQ and KOSU. Then KFOR Ponca City 1977-1980, KVOO Tulsa 1980-1982, KRMG 1982-2009, and KWGS, NPR affiliate at Tulsa University 2010-2020. He won numerous awards including UPI, AP, OAB, RTNDA and an Edward R. Murrow Award. He also won a Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Award for his series on poultry farm pollution. His 40-plus year career highlights include covering the OKC bombing, the trial of Timothy McVeigh in Denver, Tar Creek superfund site and national political conventions in San Francisco and New York. He spent his entire career in Oklahoma.



MIKE STRAIN (1967-) worked at Oklahoma's two largest newspapers for 31 years. He joined the Tulsa World in 2005 as sports editor, became news editor in 2011 and managing editor in 2014. At the World, he covered topics ranging from high school sports to a protest-filled presidential campaign stop in Tulsa during the height of COVID. His career started in the Shawnee News-Star's sports department in 1989. He joined The Oklahoman as a sports agate clerk in 1990 and left 15 years later as deputy sports editor. Strain was the Oklahoma Press Association president in 2020. He is a Bray-Doyle Donkey (Class of '85) and a University of Oklahoma graduate. He retired from journalism in 2020 to run his family's farm in Bray.

Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame Special Anniversary Posthumous Class



FREDERICK BARDE (1869-1916) helped establish journalism as a profession in Oklahoma Territory and early Oklahoma statehood from 1894 until 1916. He wrote as a "stringer" in Guthrie from 1894 until 1910. He wrote for publications such as the Oklahoma City Times, Sturm's Magazine, The Daily Oklahoman, New York Sun and Philadelphia Ledger. Barde was considered "the dean of Oklahoma journalism" at the turn of the 20th century. He wrote on Oklahoma and Indian territories and the statehood movement. He dabbled in writing poetry but is best known as the author of Field, Forest, and Stream in Oklahoma (1912) and Outdoor Oklahoma (1914). In 1917, the state Legislature authorized \$5,000 to purchase his papers and photographs, now at the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City.



NOLEN BULLOCH (1906-1971) was a political and criminal reporter for the Tulsa Tribune. He typified the fearless spirit, the crusading drive and absolute integrity. The Tulsa city commission adopted a resolution praising Bulloch's "outstanding ability and service as a newspaper reporter." KTUL-TV (Tulsa) aired a feature profile of Bulloch in which he told viewers that "the truth is a reporter's greatest reward." Also, a fighter for the rights of others, Bulloch wrote an article on "Kansas City Fats." Kansas City Fats was a McAlester prison inmate. He had been sentenced to life for armed robbery for a 15-cent Tulsa robbery. Largely due to Bulloch's efforts, Kansas City Fats (whose real name was George O. Jones) became a free man with a productive life.



LOUISA McCUNE (1970-2024) was first and foremost a journalist. A 1988 Enid High School graduate, she earned her bachelor's degree from San Francisco State University in 1992. Louisa began as a general assignment reporter for her hometown newspaper, the Enid News & Eagle in 1994. She became editor of the Oklahoma Today Magazine in 1997. Initially, she had accepted an advertising position with that publication. Earlier, she wrote for several prominent New York magazines and used that experience to make the Oklahoma Today editorial content "sparkle." She planned themes and recruited writers who could produce what she envisioned. She joined the Kirkpatrick Foundation in 2011 as executive director and in 2013 founded ArtDesk, a quarterly publication.



DAYLE MCGAHA (1934-2023) served as publisher of the Blackwell Journal-Tribune for 20 years and held various positions during his decades-long career. He was proudest of having the unofficial job title of "mentor" to young journalists and in helping women obtain leadership roles. He started as the newspaper's mailroom attendant and also worked in the classified advertising department. After college and the U.S. Army, he returned to the Journal-Tribune. He worked briefly at the McAlester and Pryor newspapers, before permanently staying in Blackwell. He was advertising manager until publisher Warren Bickford III died in 1980. He was then named general manager and later publisher, a position he held until retirement in 2000. McGaha's primary focus was to support the Blackwell community with quality news and information.



JOHNNY McMAHAN (1957-2024) arrived in Woodward at the Woodward Daily Press in 1979, just three weeks after graduating from Central State University. McMahan was a photographer, news editor and sports editor until his death. In 1985, the Woodward Daily Press became the Woodward News. He helped guide the hometown paper through changes in technology, political upheaval and cultural changes. With rarely seen commitment, he met challenges that included putting out a newspaper with no electricity, the 2012 tornado and the fires of 2017 and 2018. McMahan's awards for journalism include news, sports and photography, while simultaneously leading his team to numerous awards over the years, including the OPA Sequoyah Award. He was inducted into the Woodward Hall of Fame during the 101 Classic Bowl in June 2021.



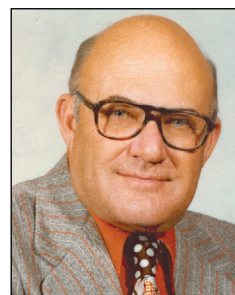
ORA EDDLEMAN REED (1880-1968) grew up in the newsroom noting, "There is nothing like a newspaper newsroom to give you a well-rounded education." She attended Kendall College, later the University of Tulsa. Her family bought the Muskogee Morning Times and the Twin Territories: The Indian Magazine in 1898. She wrote of white people who arrived in the late 1880s and the Indian people struggling to make sense of this new world. Her fiction work under the name Mignon Schreiber - "little writer" - found its themes, characters and tensions in the coming together of cultures. She was remembered in a Muskogee Phoenix column for recording Indian history at the turn of the 20th century, a time of great transition in Indian Territory.



LOUISE EARTHMAN RUCKS (1904-1990) was known for her weekly column "Hound Hill" that was published in The Daily Oklahoman for 36 years. A story in The Oklahoman featured "Kue," her nickname. Rucks' work was recognized when she was named National Dog Writer of the Year by the Dog Writers Association of America in the 1950s at the Waldorf Astoria the night before the Westminster Dog Show. She also wrote for ZOO Sounds, a publication of the Oklahoma City Zoo. In addition, as a young woman she was a registered nurse, having received her degree from St. Thomas/Vanderbilt University Hospitals in Nashville.



ELLIE SUTTER (1933 - 2020) was a dedicated and enthusiastic reporter who put her all into every story she wrote from biggest to smallest. Her print news career began in 1977 at the Billings Gazette and then The Norman Transcript. In 1983, she joined The Oklahoman and stayed for "22 years, 7 months and 12 days," retiring in 2004. She reported on many events of historical significance, including the Oklahoma City bombing and tornado outbreaks. She was the only reporting byline on the front page of The Oklahoman's extra edition on the Edmond post office massacre in 1986. One of her passions was the Gridiron Club, where she enjoyed poking fun at the famous and infamous alike - for a good cause.



JACK STAMPER (1918-2009) received a call on Oct. 1, 1951, from his former OU Journalism School classmates, J. Leland Gourley and Charles Engleman, to become their partner in the acquisition of the Hugo Daily News and become its publisher. A decade later, he and his wife, Marie, bought out the partners and continued to grow their newspaper footprint through acquisition of The Antlers American and the McCurtain Gazette in Idabel. Stamper was appointed by Gov. David Boren to the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission and served as director of the Department of Charities and Corrections as it morphed into the Department of Corrections. Throughout his career, he supported journalism initiatives through OU and the Oklahoma Press Association.



BILL TEEBINS (1952-2001) parlayed his intense interest in sports into an award-winning journalism career. After starting in Amarillo, Texas, where he did both news and sports, Bill returned to his hometown of Tulsa as the sports director of KOTV 6 in 1981. Bill moved to Oklahoma City in 1987 as KWTV 9 sports director where he was named Sports Director of the Year for seven years by the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters. Bill also was the radio play-by-play voice of Oklahoma State University football and basketball games from 1990-2001 until his untimely death in a plane crash returning from an OSU basketball game. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

Midwest City Beacon focuses on local stories



Looking Them Over

by Rod Serfoss
rserfoss@okpress.com

The Midwest City Beacon is an excellent example of how a newspaper in a metropolitan area connects with the people.

Each week the front page of the *Beacon* provides information catered to the interests of Midwest City residents by focusing on local stories the big metropolitan media outlets ignore.



A recent edition included attention-grabbing stories and pictures by *Beacon* Managing Editor Jeff Harrison.

"Student has wish granted"

"A first grader at Epperly Heights Elementary was all smiles Friday morning during a school assembly," wrote Harrison. "Leo Romo, 6, learned that his wish to go to Disney World had been granted by Make-A-Wish Oklahoma."

"Leo was born with cystic fibrosis, a genetic condition that affects the lungs, immune system and digestive system..."

"Jarman sale falls through"

"A planned sale of the former Jarman Middle School

to a local church fell through," reported the *Beacon*. "The district had an agreement to sell the building to The Birthing Room for \$800,000."

It reported the sale was voided when the church was not able to close on time and that the school district will keep the \$8,000 earnest money it put up.

Harrison also had front page stories in that edition on why the DA declined to file charges in a fatal shooting, and details of county commissioner candidates squaring off during a forum.

And this was just the tip of the iceberg to the news, sports, op-eds, pictures and advertisements that followed in the next 17 pages.

The Keystone Gusher is doing a good job filling the news void that happened when *The Cleveland American* and *Sand Springs Leader* ceased publishing.

It is common to see news and sports stories, along with pictures, in each edition of *The Gusher* about what is happening in Sand Springs, Cleveland, Drumright, Oilton and Mannford.

Its "Cimarron Valley Bulletin Board" does an excellent job connecting the newspaper with all the communities in the region.

The Bulletin Board begins with, "Cushing, Drumright, Mannford, Yale, Agra, Oilton, Olive, Jennings, Hallett, Oak Grove, Ripley, Glencoe, Sand Springs, Prue, and surrounding areas... If your school, church, club, sports team, association, organization or non-profit group is holding an event, fundraiser, or even just a regular meeting, let us know so we can let everyone else know. Include all the who, what, when, and where information you've got – we'll get it in."

And that it does! The Jan. 23, 2025, edition of *The Gusher* listed nearly 100 upcoming events in the area.

It is hard to think of a better way to make a newspaper the go-to place for information than people being able to find everything that is happening in the area it serves.



The Stilwell Democrat Journal published an excellent story titled "Beast of Stilwell."

The story began with, "Stilwell High School senior Adrianna Chronister is one tough cookie."

"As attractive and tall as a model at 5-foot-9, she's a winning wrestler who's earned many titles and medals in the past decade, with a current overall record of 111 wins and 41 losses.

"She's sometimes a beauty, and sometimes a beast," her grandmother Sheila Chronister said. "She gets called 'beast' a lot by her coaches..."

The story then detailed how she got into wrestling, comments from coaches and the importance of her faith and family.

The Altus Times Managing Editor Kathleen Guill does a good job reporting on crimes in southwest Oklahoma.

She does an excellent job of letting readers know where the information comes from.

It is commonplace to find

the words, "according to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, according to court documents, a statement from the OSBI, according to a probable cause affidavit, etc.," in her stories.

This, along with concise and easy to understand stories, earns her an A+!

Former **Dewey County Record** Publisher Mack Miller did an outstanding job showing the close tie there is to the newspaper and the people in the community it serves.

"Seiling lost a banker, We all lost a friend" was the front page headline Miller used to set the tone of his tribute to the life of local banker and civic leader Jim Pittman. But most of all, Miller and Pittman were friends.

The personal tribute included how Pittman helped Miller and the newspaper by being a walking encyclopedia of Seiling's history and concluded with, "With his passing, Seiling lost a large volume of history. Most of all, many of us lost a friend. A good friend."

TOP FIVE HEADLINES:

5. **Nightmare in the Country closes**
– Woodward News
4. **God put me there for a reason**
– Kingfisher Times & Free Press
3. **Chicken Challenge**
– Tahlequah Daily Press
2. **Woman headbutts officer, claims to be a princess**
– McCurtain Gazette
1. **Beloved boutique busted for bogus brands**
– Choctaw Times

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

What to look for when buying a used computer



Computer Notes

from the road

by Wilma Newby

wnewby@okpress.com

I've been asked quite a bit about buying used PCs.

Although it's always better to buy new, if price is really a problem here's some tips to getting a good machine.

First buy from reputable websites like Walmart and Amazon. They check the work of the people doing the refurbishing. Even safer is Dell's website for used computers at dellrefurbished.com/desktop-computers.

You also want to make sure the co-processor isn't too old. If it's outdated it won't matter how much RAM memory is added or what kind of SSD drive you put in; it will still be slow to perform many tasks.

Best Buy also sells computers that they refurbish. Look over their options at tinyurl.com/253nzmtn. Newegg is another good place to look. Check them out at tinyurl.com/k8bcxvhk.

Other World Computing now has a fair selection of used Macs at tinyurl.com/5cm64ze8. Don't forget to look on Apple's website at tinyurl.com/yjh2cjtp for refurbished computers at a discount.

It's not advisable to buy a used Intel Mac unless you have software that won't run on the M series chips. Your money is better spent on the M1, M2, M3 and M4 Macs.

Intel computers are being phased out by Apple in favor of their own (M) chips.

Now that you've bought a better computer, you may be wondering what to do with those older Macs.

One suggestion is to use them at home to log into more powerful/updated work computers at the office. You can also use them as typing stations using a flash drive to move the copy to the office when needed.

For the most part, older Intel Macs only run web-based email. Try using Firefox or Google Chrome to interface with the email. You'll want to use a Mac that runs macOS Catalina version 10.15 for this.

The two previous software versions – macOS 10.14 Mojave and macOS 10.13 High Sierra – will work but have more problems. Always look for older computers that can get to at least that level. And don't expect the Adobe Creative Cloud to run on them.

Chrome Remote Desktop is the go-to remote login free program. Chrome needs macOS Catalina version 10.15 to make remote access work well. You'll also need fairly fast Internet on both ends.

PDF PRINTERS

Newspaper employees who don't have computers with the Adobe Creative Cloud may not have a way to make PDFs.

If you have any Windows PC workstations, there's an

easy work-around. You can set up Microsoft Print to PDF as one of the printers.

If it's not already set up as one of your printers, go to the task bar at the bottom of the screen and search for **Control Panel**. Click the control panel icon that comes up.

Now look for **Programs and Features** in that window; on the left click **Turn Windows Programs and Features on or off**. Check the box next to **Microsoft Print to PDF**. It may be necessary to uncheck, then recheck **Microsoft print to PDF** to get the printer to install.

To find this option in the Windows 11 settings, go to the **Flag (Start)** button in the task bar and then to **Settings**. Look under **Bluetooth & Devices > then Printers & Scanners** and see if **Microsoft Print to PDF** is listed. If it's there you can simply go to print and choose the **Microsoft print to PDF** as the printer. It will ask where you want to save the file on the computer. This works in any software program you're using.

If Microsoft doesn't give enough control of the PDF process, look at PDFforge at pdfforge.org. There's a free version of this PDF converter software. Make sure you uncheck any boxes that download additional programs.

DEFAULT APPS

If you've had a new computer land on your desk lately you may be feeling frustrated

– especially if you want to make things work like they did before but you can't find the settings.

In fact, your hard drive may not be visible on the desktop. It used to be in **Finder > Preference**. Now it's under **Finder > Settings**. To start, select the tabs at the top of **General** and check **Hard disks** and **Connected servers**. This makes the icons show up on the desktop.

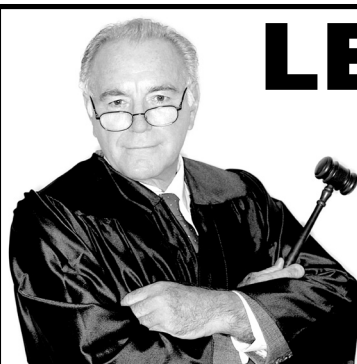
While you're still in **Finder > Settings**, look at the **Sidebar** tab and check common folders that you want to see when opening a window. Under the **Advanced** tab check **Show all filename extensions**. This is helpful when deciding the default program for commonly used file types and how they will open when clicked in email programs or on the web.

To set a default program on a Mac, right click on the file on the desktop and choose **Get Info**. Look for **Open with:** and choose a new default program from the list. Now click **Change All....** If it's not highlighted, click the lock at the bottom of the window, put in the password for the computer and then check **Change All...** Now all files of that type will open in the users' preferred program.

On a PC it is the same but the menu after the right click is **Open with > Choose another app**. Then choose the program that is to always open that type of file and click **Always**.

A lot has changed under the **Apple > System Settings** but Apple put a great search menu at the top to help find things. If you're looking for printers, they're nearly at the bottom of the menu.

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



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*Remembering our friends
& colleagues who died the
previous year.*

Roy Eugene Deering Jr.
January 23, 2024

Robert Guy Mason
January 28, 2024

Kenneth Robert Milam
January 31, 2024

Patsy Ann Noland Hammert
February 2, 2024

Ojuieta Faye (Smith) Simmons
February 3, 2024

Janice 'Jan' Kay Rollins Vassar,
February 5, 2024

John William Holt
February 12, 2024

Karen Goodwin
February 15, 2024

DEATHS

TIMOTHY JOE FARLEY, an Oklahoma journalist, died February 11, 2025. He was 65.

Farley was born June 5, 1959. He was an award-winning journalist writing for various news outlets.

Farley graduated from Oklahoma City University in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in mass communications. He

received a master's degree in business from the University of Phoenix in 2008.

As a journalist, Farley worked as an editor and reporter at The Norman Transcript; Yukon Progress; Oklahoma Gazette; EastWord News; Choctaw Times; Community Publishers, Inc.; Birmingham (Alabama) Post-Herald; and Oklahoma County Newspa-

pers. He was also a freelance writer for various print and online news outlets.

In his spare time, he enjoyed his family, traveling and sporting events.

Farley is survived by his daughter and son-in-law Lindsey and Brian Black-Farley; four grandchildren; and two brothers, Clifford and Phil.

DAN HOGAN III, who served as chairman of the board of The Journal Record for many years, died February 11, 2025. He was 91

Hogan was born October 30, 1933. After graduating from Classen High School in Oklahoma City, he pursued a degree in finance at the University of Oklahoma.

He met his wife, Sara Maddox Caton, at OU. After

they were married, Dan joined the U.S. Air Force and entered flight training school. He served three years in the Air Force and then returned to Oklahoma City.

In addition to serving as chairman of the Journal Record Publishing Company from 1972 to 1998, Hogan was well-known on the local and state level for his leadership and philanthropy.

He was the recipient of the

Outstanding Layman Award of the Oklahoma Bar Association in 1973 and in 1974, and the Humanitarian Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in 1983.

Hogan's wife, Sara, preceded him in death only 50 days before his passing.

Hogan is survived by three sons, Randy, Brad and Blake; daughter Lisa Griff; ten grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

ELIZABETH ANN WATERS RIDENOUR, who worked for the Okmulgee Times newspaper for many years, died February 1, 2025. She was 88.

a longtime reporter and editor for the Muskogee Phoenix, died February 3, 2025. She was 65.

Ridenour was born June 11, 1959, in Muskogee. She graduated from Muskogee High School in 1977 and then

attended Northeastern State University, earning a bachelor's degree.

Ridenour joined the staff of the Muskogee Phoenix as a reporter in 1998, and was later promoted to city editor before being named executive editor in 2019. She held that position until 2023.

"She fought for her community," the Muskogee Phoenix Editorial Board wrote in a tribute. "If something was import-

ant to the community, it was important to her, too. She knew what stories to assign because she listened to readers."

Ridenour enjoyed attending and watching dog shows, as well as visiting museums with her daughter.

She is survived by her husband, James Douglas Ridenour; daughter Emily Davison; brothers Paul Waters and Bill Waters; and one grandson.

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.
swilkerson@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 DECEMBER WINNERS

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

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

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

MIKE McCORMICK, *The Lincoln County News*

Editorial

A couple of legislators, one a House member, the other a Senator, have filed bills to gradually phase out and eliminate the state personal and corporate income tax over a decade with the goal of eliminating the tax entirely by 2035. State Rep. Jay Steagall, R-Yukon, filed House Bill 1009 last week, that would reduce the personal income tax rate by 0.00475 percent annually and the corporate income tax rate by 0.004 percent annually over 10 years. Steagall had filed a nearly identical bill for consideration during the 2024 legislative session.

That is House Bill 3058.

"Recent polls show that Oklahomans overwhelmingly support the elimination of the state income tax, an effort for which I have filed legislation in the past two years and filing once again for the 60th Legislature," Steagall said. "The state income tax is a clear violation of our own state constitution and I will continue to pursue righting this wrong in the upcoming session."

State Sen. Michael Bergstrom, R-Adair, filed Senate Bill 1, a tax reform proposal that he says is designed to reduce

Oklahoma's income tax in a responsible and measured way.

Under his proposal, the state's marginal income tax rate will be reduced 0.25 percentage points across all income brackets.

He ties future reductions to revenue growth, with the Board of Equalization determining if total revenue has increased by at least \$400 million in comparison to the previous fiscal year before the most recent tax cut.

Bergstrom's plan, he claims, would protect the state's financial health with safeguards to delay tax cuts during times of revenue failure. If a shortfall were to occur after a tax cut has taken place but before it takes effect, the reduction would be delayed until growth in revenue started again.

One question we have is: what happens if it's just taken place and gone into effect, then the shortfall occurs?

He notes that additionally, starting in 2035, the \$400 million benchmark would adjust every 10 years to account for inflation, ensuring the plan remains economically viable over time.

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

CONNIE BURCHAM, *Watonga Republican*

A Bubble Off Plumb

More and more things are going the way of the dodo bird because of lack of support and people who should know better taking advantage of a good thing.

In this specific situation I'm talking about the annual Christmas meal put on at the Blaine County Fairgrounds. It went to just drive through service during the pandemic and has never gone back to dine in.

That doesn't mean it is easy. Putting together a full holiday meal for an unknown number of guests is a monumental undertaking. The Pinkertons have been ramrodding the event since Santa was in diapers, but they are understandably weary. There has been talk of discontinuing the event. So far, no one has stepped up to take the reins.

But it is one of the great things about our town and it would be a shame for it to end. So how can we as residents make sure it continues?

That is easy. Get involved and/or give.

I recognize not everyone is Daddy Warbucks with a bank account to match. But we all have some time we could offer. If you are going to be too busy on Christmas Day, volunteer before then setting up, fetching and carrying, picking up needed items and answering the phone.

If you can't squeeze an extra minute out of your December schedule, then donate money. Or call and ask what is need-

ed, maybe paper towels or other necessities are in short supply but you have a case of Bounty in the garage.

Do you own a business? Sponsor a few plates. It won't be simple to decide how much that is worth but give it a go. It could also be a good place to fill out your end of year giving list.

It probably costs \$7,500 annually to put on this meal, yet there is never a charge to eat.

If your situation dictates not spending any money this year and you can't volunteer because of physical limitations or time demands, that's OK. There is something else you can do.

When you arrive to pick up your meal, be early enough to get a plate. Wait patiently. Be prepared to accept the standard meal, not asking for special orders. Only take what you need. Don't look to fill your freezer for the next six months. Don't expect to feed your 87 visiting relatives. And for the love of all that is holy, be polite. Thank the volunteers who bring the meals out to your car. That is absolutely free, probably makes the day of the volunteer and it shows that the work that goes into this event is appreciated, and the people who volunteer their time and skills are valued. Later, maybe send a thank you card or note to the folks who put it on.



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

The December 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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