

Take a 'Chance' and attend the 2025 OPA Convention

Who doesn't remember playing Monopoly with our family and friends? It was competitive, educational and lots of fun.

With that in mind, this year's OPA Convention has incorporated some of the famous Monopoly elements into a theme we've coined Pressopoly.

For the competitive element, there's the announcement of the winners of the annual Better Newspaper Contest and other awards. Education is the terrific lineup of speakers and sessions. And there's plenty of fun – from Family Feud on opening night to the Blooper show and hospitality suites.

There's even going to be a jail where you can pay to lock up your friends and foes – for a small donation that benefits the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation.

Now let's delve into some of those educational elements.

First up on Friday, June 6, will be Leonard Woolsey, publisher of the Galveston Daily News and president of Southern Newspapers, Inc. Woolsey will kick off the convention with "Digital Migration Is Not an Option." Digital is no longer an add-on or shiny object to help you sell print, says Woolsey, it's at the top of

your clients' minds. Don't miss this frank discussion about the importance of digital.

Saturday morning you'll hear from Mike Sanders, State Broadband Director. Sanders was appointed executive director of the Oklahoma Broadband Office in early 2023. Prior to taking this role, he had an impactful political career, serving six terms in the Oklahoma House of Representatives starting in 2008, representing his hometown of Kingfisher. During his tenure in the House, he chaired committees and served as House Majority Leader.

State Auditor and Inspector Cindy Byrd is also on tap for Saturday morning. A CPA with more than 25 years of government auditing experience, Byrd is Oklahoma's 13th State Auditor & Inspector, and the first woman elected to serve as the taxpayer's watchdog. By the end of her second term, she will have published over 3,000 audits.

Eric Meyer, editor and publisher of the Marion County Record in Kansas, will reflect on how the August 11, 2023, search and seizure by the local police brought First Amendment rights to the forefront. Meyer will discuss the raid and its aftermath as well as

See Convention, Page 8



OPA ANNUAL CONVENTION

PRESSOPOLY

JUNE 6-7 • GRAND CASINO HOTEL & RESORT, SHAWNEE, OK

Don't miss these featured speakers at the convention



LEONARD WOOLSEY
Galveston Daily News
Friday, June 6, 2025
4:30 p.m.



CINDY BYRD
State Auditor and Inspector
Saturday, June 7, 2025
9:45 a.m.



MIKE SANDERS
State Broadband Director
Saturday, June 7, 2025
9:00 a.m.



ERIC MEYER
Marion County Record
Saturday, June 7, 2025
10:30 a.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PAGE 7** OPA Nominating Committee makes recommendations
- PAGE 8** Take a look at this years Convention Sponsors
- PAGE 10** Wilma Newby's column about password management

From the President

By Shauna Belyeu

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



Honoring the story tellers

On May 9, I had the honor of attending the 55th annual induction ceremony of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in Edmond as our own Mark Thomas co-emceed the event. It was a pleasure to celebrate the state's most distinguished journalists, editors, broadcasters and photojournalists.

Over 530 members have been inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame and recognized for their significant contributions to journalism in Oklahoma. Twenty-four were added that night.

As I read the biographies of the 2025 inductees and posthumous class, I saw pioneers who paved the way for journalists today. They've been there to report on Oklahoma Territory, war declarations, terrorist attacks, natural disasters and transitions of power. Through it all, they didn't just report the news, they lived it. They've stood in the rain at crime scenes, sifted through public records late into the night

and held the line on truth in times when facts felt fragile.

Some covered terrorist attacks that changed our state's history all while processing the story from a personal perspective. Many of these forerunners began their careers with typewriters and finished with Twitter feeds but their mission never wavered. Their stories were told in local papers, on the airwaves and on digital platforms. Their names stand out, not only for their bylines but also for their dedication to ethical journalism and reporting.

Almost every recipient recognized their patient families who understood the job that was filled with long hours, missed holidays and tight emergency deadlines. These journalists showed up every day for their readers, viewers and listeners. They brought clarity in times of confusion and told the stories as the nation stopped to listen.

These veteran reporters serve as a compass for those

journalists who will come behind them. They remind us that journalism is not just about being first – it's about being accurate, fair and showing up to the story.

On June 6 and 7, we get the opportunity to recognize outstanding papers and media in our state at our annual convention. The Press Association is hard at work organizing the classes, lining out the speakers and preparing awards. It is a great time of fellowship, networking and learning.

Equally important, we will recognize those who have been in the industry for 50 or more years. They deserve to be celebrated. If you are fortunate enough to know one of these half-century inductees, ask them the questions. Find out what stories made an impact on them through the years.

After all, they didn't just cover the stories, they lived them.

OPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Thur., June 5, 2025

OMC Webinar: Hackers

**& Headlines: Defending Your
Newsroom from Cyber Threats**

Media organizations face unprecedented cybersecurity threats from hackers, ransomware criminals, and sophisticated disinformation campaigns. Join cybersecurity expert Greg Edwards in an essential webinar designed specifically for media leadership and journalists.

Fri., June 6, 2025

ANNUAL CONVENTION

There's still time to register for the Annual Convention. This is an opportunity to connect with newspaper folks from across the state! Great informational sessions are planned and awards will be presented for the 2024 contests. For more information or to register, visit okpress.com/convention.

Thur., June 12, 2025

**OMC WEBINAR: CLOSING THE GAP:
SALES TRAINING FOR THE NEWS
ERA OF NEWS MEDIA**

Sales in local for-profit and nonprofit news has shifted from selling ad space or pageviews to addressing psychological, strategic and narrative-driven challenges. This session outlines how news organizations can adopt a sales approach rooted in sponsor alignment and value-based storytelling.

ATTEND THE
JUNE 6-7, 2025

OPA CONVENTION

Register online at
okpress.com/convention



**Grand Casino Hotel & Resort
Shawnee, OK**

David Steiner to be 76th Postmaster General and CEO of the United States Postal Service

The U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors have chosen David Steiner to be America's 76th Postmaster General and CEO.

Steiner will succeed Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, who resigned in March. Current Acting Postmaster Gen-

eral Doug Tulino will return to his permanent position as Deputy Postmaster General and Chief Human Resources Officer.

Steiner is expected to formally join the organization in July.

Steiner served as the

former president and CEO of Waste Management for 12 years. Before joining Waste Management, he was a partner at the law firm Phelps Dunbar. He is serving on the board of FedEx Corporation, which he will leave before his new appointment.

OPA Board to consider two memberships

The OPA Board of Directors will consider two applications for OPA affiliate news media membership during its next meeting on June 6. Both publications to be considered are newspapers at Oklahoma prison facilities, which were created by inmates with the help of Poetic Justice, a nonprofit organization out of Tulsa.

Its website is poeticjustice.org/prison-journalism. The applications were submitted by Ellen Stackable, executive director of Poetic Justice.

The Mabel Bassett Bal-

ance newspaper at Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in McLoud, Okla., is printed quarterly and distributed to community members living and working at the center.

The Warrior Standard newspaper at Eddie Warrior Correctional Center in Taft, Okla., is also printed quarterly and distributed to the community members living there.

Written protests to a membership application must be received at the OPA by May 27, 2025.

Protests may be emailed to OPA Executive Vice President

Mark Thomas at mthomas@okpress.com or mailed to Oklahoma Press Association, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

Any current member filing a written protest will be entitled to be heard by the Board of Directors at its June 6 meeting.

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

Lists of current members may be found at okpress.com/members.

The Oklahoma Publisher

ISSN 1526-811X

Official Publication of the
OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSOCIATION

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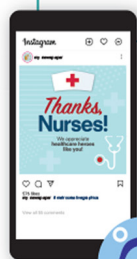
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- Should I alter my archives when a person demands it?
- Can I report inaccurate testimony given in open court?
- What are the laws about liquor advertising?

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!



OPA Board of Directors meet in Checotah in April

The Oklahoma Press Association Board of Directors met at the Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center in Checotah on April 10.

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; Shaun Witt, Oklahoma Watch; Connor Choate, Marietta Monitor; and Jason Collington, Tulsa World. Brett Wesner, Wesner Publications, was unable to attend.

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

After calling the meeting to order, Belyeu asked the board to review minutes of the February 6, 2025, meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

Thomas reviewed the OPA and LSP financial statements for the period ending February 28, 2025. Expenses for the building and professional services were higher than budgeted due to replacement of a cap on top of the chilled water tank and budget accrual for this year's financial review by a new accounting firm.

Thomas said a reform to the Legal Services Plan benefits and dues structures is needed to sustain the program in the future.

HVAC air conditioning chilled water tank and pipes was completed at a cost of \$38,750, as previously approved by the board. An additional expense of \$8,150 was incurred to replace the

damaged insulation cap on top of the tank.

Thomas also discussed two building projects he would like to complete in the next fiscal year: replacement of 312 fluorescent light fixtures with LED fixtures, and a damaged original skylight from 1962 on the upper roof.

MEMBERSHIP APPROVED

A strategic partner membership application was submitted by Garver, an engineering, planning and environmental services firm with multiple offices in Oklahoma. The application was submitted by Public Relations Specialist Mia Waddell. Garver's website is garverusa.com. Notice of the application was published in the March issue of The Oklahoma Publisher. After discussion, the board approved Garver's membership application.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

In an update on OPA committee activity reports, Chairman Choate said the **Awards Committee** recommended the induction of four nominees to the Half Century Club – Bruce Campbell, Ross Coyle, Jerry Fink and John Lewis – and five nominees to the Quarter Century Club – Shauna Belyeu, Denise Frost, Eric Hunter, Sean Stephens and Calvin Stone. The board approved the nominees as presented.

The Awards Committee also reviewed the entry submission results for the Better Newspaper Contest and other contests. The new A-Mark Prize for Investigative Reporting, which includes cash prizes, received 11 entries.

Education Committee Chairman Witt said the committee discussed the 2025 Convention, which will be held June 6-7 at the Grand Casino

Hotel and Resort in Shawnee. Witt said the speaking topic for the opening general session with Leonard Woolsey, president of Southern Newspapers, will be "Digital migration is not an option." Saturday's general session speakers are Mike Sanders, executive director of the Oklahoma Broadband Office; Cindy Byrd, State Auditor and Inspector; and Eric Meyer, Publisher of the Marion County Record in Kansas. The committee also discussed panel speakers for the news and revenue concurrent sessions.

In Chairman Wesner's absence, Thomas gave the **Government Relations Committee** report, which included a list of active and dormant bills affecting the industry in the current legislation. OPA's two bills that would increase the legal notice rate and revise the definition of a legal newspaper passed the House by a vote of 89-0 and 83-6 respectively. Sponsors are Majority Deputy Floor Reader Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City).

Revenue and Promotions Committee Chair Thompson said the OPS advertising staff is developing political print and digital packages for the 2026 statewide elections. A collection of sales promotion ideas for the second quarter was distributed to members in early February. Thompson said the Earn Your Press Pass program, which is free to OPA members, has added a new course on advertising sales training.

The **Strategic Planning Committee**, composed of Vice President Suzie Campbell, chair; President Shauna Belyeu; and senior board member Erin Dyer Thompson, reviewed the strategic initiatives set by the board for 2024-2026. The initiatives are:

1. Alter public perception and increase support for the industry (trust, value, local news leaders).
2. Assist members with business and revenue models that works for their market.
3. Create initiatives to help members find, hire, train and inspire employees.
4. Foster readership of local news and public notice.
5. Study challenges and create plans for the future of public notice.
6. Establish membership recruitment, development and retention strategies.

Plans for initiative #5, the future of public notice, are in action with two current bills in the state legislature to increase the legal notice rate for the first time in 20 years and to update the definition of a legal newspaper. The association also created a Public Notice Journalism Contest, sponsored by OPS, to encourage reporters to read and report on their local public notices.

Thomas encouraged a focus on initiative #2 to assist members in building sustainable business models to stabilize their revenue. That effort could also influence public perception. Campbell said we should also focus on educating younger generations on our work and why it's important. The committee also discussed the need to improve members' brand recognition on social media.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The OPA Nominating Committee met on March 14 to discuss the slate of officers and directors for the 2025-2026 term. The slate of nominees will be presented during the annual business meeting on June 6, 2025. Recommended for a one-year term are

See OPA Board, Page 5

OPA BOARD

Continued from Page 4

President – Suzie Campbell, Countywide & Sun; Vice President – Erin Dyer Thompson, El Reno Tribune; Treasurer – Brian Blansett, The Lincoln County News; and Immediate Past President – Shauna Belyeu, The Eufaula Indian Journal. Ed Choate was recommended for renewal of a three-year term as director; and Connor Choate and Jason Collington to complete the vacated terms for which they were appointed. Norman Transcript Publisher

Katherine Miller was nominated as a new director to serve a three-year term.

Board members acknowledged receipt of the Nominating Committee report.

The Nominating Committee also recommended to the OPA board renewal of a three-year term on the ONF Board of Trustees for Clytie Bunyan, The Oklahoman; Jason Collington, Tulsa World; J.D. Meisner, Cushing Citizen; and Barb Walter, The Kingfisher Times & Free Press. No new trustees were recommended. The board approved the renewals.

In other business, the board reviewed three venues as the site for the 2026 annual convention. After discussion, the board selected the Grand Casino Hotel and Resort in Shawnee as the site for 2026.

Also reviewed by board members was the summary of the directors and officers liability insurance, provided by Philadelphia Insurance Companies.

OPS BOARD MEETING

At the OPS Board Meeting, board members approved the February 6, 2025, minutes and the OPS financial statements

for the period ending February 28, 2025.

A capital expenditure request was made for five computers that are not able to upgrade to Windows 11 when Windows 10 ceases to receive security updates and support in October. Also requested was an enhanced security package from ImageNet Consulting, OPS's IT vendor.

The board authorized the purchase of the five computers at a cost of \$8,396.50, and to increase network security at a total of \$5,716.80 annually.

Jeff Brown hired as editor of Stigler News-Sentinel



Jeff Brown

Jeff Brown has been named editor of the Stigler News-Sentinel.

Brown succeeds former Editor Anita Reding, who died in March.

Brown served as advertising manager of the News-Sentinel in 1990-92, then again as assistant editor in 2015-16.

"We are very excited to have Jeff Brown back at the News-Sentinel to help carry on its great legacy of community

journalism," said Publisher Jeff Mayo.

Brown graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1987 with a degree in journalism. In 1999, he traveled to Silicon Valley in California and worked as an online book editor for MightyWords.com, which later became Barnes and Noble's online publishing arm. Brown also worked in public relations and as a high school and junior college teacher.

When the Silicon Valley bubble burst in 2002, Brown returned to Stigler.

"I treasure the opportunity to steward the Stigler legacy," Brown said.

"To follow such a long line of quality editors is a special honor. I worked with Anita Reding and hope to be able to fill her shoes to some degree. It's great to be home."



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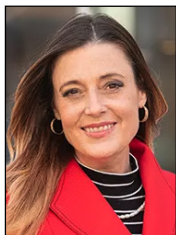
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Journal Record names Warlick as editor



Heather Warlick has been named editor of The Journal Record.

Warlick has worked in news and communications for nearly 20 years. She began her career as a reporter and

Life & Style editor for The Oklahoman in 2006.

She also worked at United Way of Central Oklahoma and Goodwill Industries of Central Oklahoma where she led marketing and communications teams.

Warlick later served as interim editor at the Cushing Citizen while working as a freelance reporter.

Most recently, she worked at Oklahoma Watch as an investigative reporter where she focused on housing, homelessness and evictions.

"I am thrilled to take on this new challenge as editor of The Journal Record," Warlick said.

"It is really a dream job for me and I'm grateful for the chance to continue serving my

community through journalism."

Warlick is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma where she received a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in public administration.

She replaces James Bennett, who became weekend editor of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Enid News & Eagle publisher speaks at Rotary Club luncheon

Mike Kellogg, publisher of the Enid News & Eagle, recently spoke to members of the Enid Rotary Club.

"Our mission is to be a good citizen of the community," Kellogg said at the noon meeting. "We provide a service, and we take this responsibility very seriously."

Kellogg was named as publisher of the News & Eagle when Jeff Funk retired last year after 47 years in the newspaper business. Kellogg is also publisher of the Stillwater News Press.

"Enid is a great community and I see it as a very independent city, especially when it comes to business," Kellogg said. "Enid has lots of community banks and businesses."

Kellogg took time to answer questions from the group. When asked what the newspaper does with anonymous tips, Kellogg said it does not use them.

When asked about the future of the newspaper business, Kellogg said there would be more of a digital presence because of the direction information is moving and the costs.

"Right now the newspaper business is very concerned



Enid News & Eagle Publisher Mike Kellogg greets former publisher Jeff Funk during the Enid Rotary Club meeting. (Photo by Suzie Byrd, Enid News & Eagle. Reprinted with permission.)

about tariffs," he said. "We get our paper to print on from Canada."

Kellogg started his newspaper career in 1990 as advertising manager for the Muskogee Phoenix before being named as director of advertising for the newspaper in Niagara Falls, N.Y. He then joined CNHI

as publisher of the Stillwater News Press until 2008.

Before returning to Oklahoma, Kellogg was the chief revenue officer at Indij Public Media and before that spent more than six years as director of marketing communications for the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise.

Griffin new team member at All About Hennessey



Cam Griffin is the newest team member at All About Hennessey.

Griffin is a recent graduate of Hennessey High School and is currently studying communications at Northern Oklahoma College in Enid. His future plans are to become a sports journalist.

At All About Hennessey, Griffin is running the All About Network print shop, assists with paper deliveries and is expanding his skills in photography, reporting and writing.

"We're thrilled to have his energy and enthusiasm on board," said Jack Quirk founder and CEO of The All About Network.

OPA Nominating Committee makes recommendations

The OPA Nominating Committee met at the OPA office in Oklahoma City on March 14 to discuss the slate of officers and directors for 2025-2026.

The seven-member committee is composed of the six most recent OPA past presidents who are still active as newspaper executives and the current OPA president.

Committee members in attendance were Chair Sheila Gay, Woodward News; Ted Streuli, Oklahoma Watch; Ray Dyer, El Reno Tribune; John Denny Montgomery, The Purcell Register; and Shauna Belyeu, The Eufaula

Indian Journal. Jeff Mayo, Sequoyah County Times, and Brian Blansett, The Lincoln County News, were unable to attend.

After reviewing the OPA By-Laws and discussing possible candidates, the committee recommended the following slate of OPA/OPS officers and directors for the year beginning July 1, 2025.

Suzie Campbell, publisher of the Countywide & Sun, was recommended to serve as president. Erin Dyer Thompson, co-publisher of the El Reno Tribune, was recommended to serve as vice president. Brian Blansett,

publisher/editor of The Lincoln County News, was recommended to serve a second one-year term as treasurer. Shauna Belyeu, general manager of The Eufaula Indian Journal, was recommended to serve as past president.

The committee also recommended renewal of a three-year term for Ed Choate, publisher of the Muskogee Phoenix. Recommended to complete a vacated term ending June 30, 2026, was Connor Choate, publisher of the Marietta Monitor. Jason Collington, editor of the Tulsa World, was recommended

to complete a vacated term ending June 30, 2027.

Norman Transcript Publisher Katherine Miller was nominated to serve a three-year term as a new director.

Other current members of the OPA Board of Directors are Brett Wesner, Wesner Publications, and Shaun Witt, Oklahoma Watch.

The general election for new officers and directors will be held at the annual convention during the business meeting at 3:45 p.m. on Friday, June 6, at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort in Shawnee.

Stillwater bridge named for late Dr. Harry Heath



A bridge on State Highway 51 in Stillwater was named to honor the late Dr. Harry Heath on April 16 at the OSU School of Media & Strategic Communications Scholarship & Awards Celebration.

Heath served as director of the Oklahoma State University School of Journalism and Broadcasting from 1967 to 1982, during which the

school grew from 200 to 750 students. He was also a great friend to the Oklahoma Press Association, leading news training courses as part of the "Harry, Terry and Mary Show," and wrote "Heath's Critique," a column in The Oklahoma Publisher, for 30 years.

Heath was a mentor to generations of journalists. He died in 1996 a few months after



LEFT: Pictured at the OSU Journalism Awards Banquet on April 16 are Dr. Terry Clark; Max Andrews, director of student media at OSU; Rep. Ranson (D-Stillwater); and Mark Thomas, OPA Exec. Vice President.

ABOVE: Dr. Terry Clark, retired journalism professor and a longtime friend of Heath, stands near the memorial bridge location.

an automobile accident near the bridge, located just east of Sangre Road on Highway 51.

The OPA Board of Directors voted to fund bridge signs and Rep. Trish Ranson (D-Stillwa-

ter) sponsored the legislation to approve the naming.

"Harry would not approve of the lack of punctuation in this sign," OPA Executive Director Mark Thomas said jokingly.

Convention

Continued from Page 1

how journalists and business owners can respond when their First Amendment rights are infringed.

Speed topics are on tap Saturday afternoon as well as concurrent sessions featuring

an advertising and editorial session.

At the Awards Luncheon on Saturday, presentations will be made of the ONF Beachy Muselman Award, OPA Half and Quarter Century Club inductions, ONG Column and Editorial Sweepstakes Awards, OGE Photo of the Year Awards,

Magazine Contest Award, ONF Joseph H. Edwards Outdoor Writer of the Year Award and the ONF Ray Lokey Memorial Award for Excellence in Reporting.

The Awards Banquet includes presentation of OPA Milt Phillips Award, A-Mark Prize for Investigative Re-

porting and Better Newspaper Contest Awards.

Join us June 6-7 at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort in Shawnee for the 2025 OPA Convention to make new memories. To view the entire program and to register, see okpress.com/convention.



2025 OPA
CONVENTION

Thank You to the *Sponsors!*



the Chickasaw Nation



YOUR SUPPORT IS PRICELESS!

Column connects with readers in rural Oklahoma



Looking Them Over

by Rod Serfoss
rserfoss@okpress.com

On a regular basis, James Lockhart has an entertaining column on the front page of the *Guymon Daily Herald*.



Some recent examples include:

A drunk horse...

"The other day a cop stopped me after I'd been to the dentist, the horse dentist that is ..."

Uber drivers and Wizards...

"I swear we looked like the Beverly Hillbillies when we went through that residential area in Dallas. We decided to hire an Uber taxi service. When the driver put the car in gear, I noticed he had two-inch-long bright blue fingernails ..."

I confused the tax lady...

"We have a system of sorts at our house for keeping up with our taxes throughout the year. When it comes to the plethora of receipts farmers acquire, we cram them into the center consoles of our car and trucks. When those begin to overflow, we bring them to a five-gallon bucket by the desk in the house ..."

Traded cattle for sheep

"Sometimes, a farmer has

to think outside the box to keep everything afloat ..."

While Lockhart might not connect to readers in the big city, he is a hit in rural Oklahoma.

The front-page headline of the April 22 edition of *The Ada News* read, "Tornado strikes Ada again!" The key word is "again."



Living in Tornado Alley it's not uncommon to have tornado damage in your city. But having two tornadoes strike in 46 days is rare – even in Oklahoma.

So far this year, tornadoes hit Ada on March 4 and April 19. The key words are "so far."

The staff of *The Ada News* is to be commended for the well-written stories and scores of excellent photographs in the editions that followed each of the twisters.

Last month Tim Schnoebelen, publisher of *The Mooreland Leader*, shared the history of the town's newspaper that has been in his family for four generations.

After working for two newspapers in Iowa, in 1903 at the age of 19, Omer F. Schnoebelen, Tim's grandfather, purchased a round-trip train ticket from Iowa to Woodward County, Oklahoma Territory to go on a land excursion – but he never used the return part of the ticket, wrote Tim.

When the townspeople found out he was an experienced newspaper publisher they made him an offer he couldn't refuse – giving him a shack in which to operate for one year, rent free, if he'd

stay and publish a newspaper. Omer agreed.

He and wife Eda published the paper until around 1945 when their son, Omer N. Schnoebelen, and family returned to Mooreland after he had worked for a large daily newspaper in California.

Tim and wife Karen, along with their young son Jeff, returned to Mooreland to publish *The Leader* in 1967.

"I was in the final year of college at the University of Oklahoma with a major in journalism," wrote Tim. "My dad (Omer N.) had a heart attack, and I came back just two months before I was to graduate, and I never returned to OU."

In 1996, after deciding they had enough of the Dallas area, Jeff and his wife Jennifer returned and became the fourth generation at the newspaper.

Today, Tim, Karen, Jeff and Jennifer are active at *The Mooreland Leader*.

On the front page of the *Atoka County Times* was the headline, "Shooting Reported During Atoka Rodeo; No Injuries."

According to the story, "A shooting disrupted Saturday night's rodeo festivities in Atoka, though fortunately no injuries were reported."

On the same page was, "Atoka Pro Rodeo Brings Big Action and Community Pride."

That story didn't mention the shooting but told readers how, "The Atoka rodeo remains a highlight for families and rodeo fans alike."

Some newspapers would have combined them, others might have only published one, but the *County Times* did what was right and told both stories separately.

The Cordell Beacon did an excellent job reporting

about a night of vandalism that struck the community of 2,700 people.

"Residents and business owners alike awoke to discover a troubling scene," published *The Beacon*. "Numerous public and private buildings had been defaced with spray paint. Some properties were also left with shattered windows."

The story was accompanied by several pictures showing the damage.

In towns of any size there are mayors, city councils, school boards and chambers of commerce that would prefer that only good news be published in their local paper.

History has repeatedly shown the only way to correct problems is to expose them – and that is the job of a good newspaper.

I strongly believe coverage, like in *The Beacon*, helps people to address problems and make towns better.

TOP FIVE HEADLINES:

5. **Pool closure causes big splash**
– *Okemah News Leader*

4. **You, too, shall pass**
– *Kingfisher Times & Free Press*

3. **Valliant Police: Panhandlers, Gel Blasters And Weird Actors**
– *The Valliant Leader*

2. **A secret beneath our feet**
– *The Journal Record*

1. **Woman says "friend" tried to bite off her nose**
– *McCurtain Gazette*

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

Authenticator phasing out password management



Computer Notes

from the road

by Wilma Newby

wnewby@okpress.com

Users of Microsoft's Authenticator will need to look for another way to save passwords or use Edge as their browser to save passwords.



Following are some important Authenticator deadlines:

June 2025 – users will no longer be able to save new passwords to Authenticator.

July 2025 – autofill will stop working in Authenticator and stored payment info will be deleted.

August 2025 – saved passwords and unsaved generated passwords will no longer be accessible in Authenticator.

Many people who use Microsoft email are using Authenticator on their phone or computer.

The passwords are synced to the Microsoft account so they can be stored in the Edge browser that is signed into that account.

To complete the migration of the autofill functionality to Microsoft's browser, users need to find **Autofill/Passwords** on their device (phone or computer) settings and choose Edge as the preferred service. Then, launch Edge and sign into the Microsoft account to allow syncing of passwords to begin.

If everything is done correctly, all passwords should be accessible via **Settings > Passwords** on Edge.

If you don't want to use Edge as your main authenticator, you need to export usernames and passwords to another password manager before August 1. For stored payment information the deadline is July 2025.

To export from Microsoft Authenticator, select **Menu > Settings > Autofill > Export Passwords >**, then select an export location and tap **Save**. For more information about exporting passwords, see tinyurl.com/ybyk28a8.

For security reasons, bank information will be deleted and cannot be exported.

Microsoft is trying to move away from passwords as much as possible.

The latest update of the Windows 11 operating system offers users a fingerprint reader or face ID to log in with "Windows Hello," if it's available to start the computer. If it's not available, there is **"Try another way,"** which lets you get to the pin number. Microsoft wants every user to set up an account and have some sort of biometric way of identifying themselves to be able to use the computer.

According to Microsoft, their clients already prefer logging in this way. Plus, lots of CPU cycles are saved along with lots of money. Apparent-

ly, forgetting passwords is not just a user problem. And it's not just Microsoft; Apple is moving to biometrics as well.

One replacement option for Microsoft Authenticator is **1password.com**; it is one of the best password managers reviewed on the internet. It supports Apple and Windows computers as well as Android and iPhones. The cost is \$2.99 per month, paid annually. There's also a family plan for \$4.99 per month as well as a 14-day free trial.

Passwords, credit card details and other information is stored and can be shared securely with others. You can even track and address security risks with the company's Watchtower application.

Other password managers may be free, but make sure they support all the equipment and browsers that are used. Look at Bitwarden, Dashlane, NordPass, KeePass and RoboForm for comparison. Most charge a per month fee to access all their services.

Saving passwords in web browsers has proven to be unsafe. Hackers are becoming smarter. Global cyber-attacks increased by 30 percent in 2024, according to many security sites.

To add biometrics (a fingerprint reader) to a computer for login, try adding a USB fingerprint reader that supports the latest security. Look for a FIDO2-certified authenticator.

WHERE'S MY POINTER

People using several screens sometimes have trouble finding the pointer as they work. This slows them down and causes frustration.

To fix this problem, follow these steps:

Windows 10/11 computers

Go to **Start >** and then to **Settings**. Search for the mouse in settings and then click on **Mouse settings**. There are many things to try in this box.

One is to turn on **Enhance pointer precision**. Then scroll down to **Mouse pointer** and touch to change the pointer's size and color. Choose any color you prefer by clicking the **Pick a custom pointer color**. This is also the window where you can increase the size of the pointer.

Apple computers

On newer Apple computers go to the **Apple Menu > System Setting**. Search for **Accessibility > Display > Pointer** and choose **fill color**. You can also increase the size of the pointer.

On older Macs go to **Apple Menu > System Preferences > Accessibility > Display** to make the pointer bigger (called **Cursor Size** here). There are no pretty colors, but a bigger pointer is easier to spot.

SPRING BACKUP

So far this year we've been lucky as far as storms go. I've only heard of roof damage at some newspapers.

But this is my annual reminder to make backups of your computer systems before a natural disaster strikes.

As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

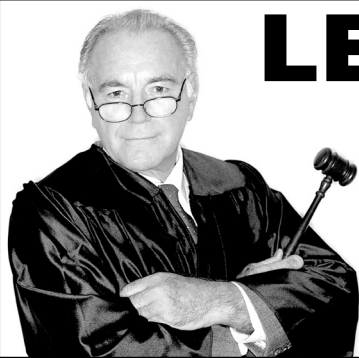
OPA Computer Consultant Wilma Newby's column is brought to you by the Oklahoma Advertising Network (OAN). For more information on the OAN program, contact Oklahoma Press Service at (405) 499-0020.

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Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year.

Larry Paul Adler
April 10, 2024

Jim East
April 16, 2024

Edward 'Edd' Harold Bellatti
April 26, 2024

Johnny Dale McMahon
May 3, 2024

James Ruel Beaty
May 12, 2024

CARL HENRY KETCHUM, a former pressman at The Purcell Register, died March 13, 2025. He was 84.

Ketchum was born June 4, 1940, in Pauls Valley. After high school, he continued his education at Murray State College in Tishomingo.

Ketchum retired from The Purcell Register as a press foreman after many years. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Press Association's Half-Century Club in 2011.

He was a skilled photographer, capturing moments

from weddings to local sports events.

Ketchum is survived by his daughter Tammy Mann; son Doyle Mann, Jr.; sister Aline Jump; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

BARRY L. NEWTON, former manager of the Oklahoma Newspaper Advertising Bureau, died March 26, 2025, in Norman.

Newton graduated in 1976 from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in journalism/advertising and began his career in advertising sales for The Norman Transcript. He was later named marketing and

advertising director at Braum's Ice Cream.

After leaving Braum's, Newton joined the Oklahoma Press Association as manager of the Oklahoma Newspaper Advertising Bureau and director of Consumer Data Service. Marketing research conducted under his guidance at OPA was instrumental in developing data for newspapers, press organizations, political races,

colleges and retailers across the country that allowed each to develop strategies to improve their organization.

In 1997, he established his own company, Newton Marketing & Research, and operated it successfully for many years.

Newton is survived by wife Linda, of the home; daughter Carrie Newton Lyons; and one granddaughter.

JOHN V. YOUNG, a longtime Oklahoma journalist, died April 21, 2025, at the age of 90.

Young was born October 31, 1934, in Cushing. He graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1956 and then served three years' active duty as a U.S. Naval Reserve officer.

He began a 53-year career in journalism in 1960 as a sports and news editor at the Cushing Daily Citizen. Young

joined United Press International in 1963 in Dallas and was a team member of the wire service's prize-winning coverage of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He spent two years as manager of UPI's Kansas City bureau before becoming news editor of the Sapulpa Daily Herald for 14 years.

In 1978, he became a copy editor at the Tulsa Tribune and was serving as news editor when it closed in 1992. Two weeks later, he joined the copy

desk staff at the Tulsa World, retiring in 2013.

Young received the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation's Beachy Musselman Award in 1979 and was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2006.

He is survived by his wife, Dru; daughter Sabrina (Lane) Davis of Oklahoma City; daughter-in-law, Rhonda Young of Sapulpa; sister Marcia Lee Bolton of Fort Worth, Texas; five grandsons; and two great-granddaughters.

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MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS



MARCH 2025 WINNERS

Daily, Semi- and Tri-Weekly Photo Winner:

GLEN MILLER

El Reno Tribune



Column Winner:
JUSTIN SCRIMSHIRE
Okemah News Leader

When baseball becomes more than a game

Last Saturday, the Okemah Panther High School baseball team had the opportunity to play inside the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark in Oklahoma City against the Chandler Lions on a beautiful, summer-like, sunny day. In pre-game warmups, the boys laughed and played catch, a quintessential teenage experience on the biggest baseball stage in Oklahoma. But lingering over the moment was a quiet reality the past few days had been anything but quintessential.

The last time Panther cleats walked onto a baseball diamond was in Kellyville on March 13.

All entries judged by members of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame

Weekly Photo Winner:

NATASHA DUNAGAN

Countywide & Sun



OGE Energy Corp. provides monthly winners with a \$100 check and certificate. Sweepstakes winners receive \$200 and a plaque from OGE. Contest open to staff at OPA Legal Newspaper and General News Media members, as well as OPA Individual members. Complete contest rules and online submission form available at okpress.com/oge-photo-contest.

View winning photos at okpress.com/oge-photo-contest

Editorial Winner:
KIM POINDEXTER
Tahlequah Daily Press

‘Sparing the rod’ may be best for children

Cherokee County residents can be thankful we’re not represented by State Sen. Shane Jett, whose philosophy calls to mind images of dank dungeons filled with chains, leather straps, iron maidens, and agonized screams.

Jett last week was railing against a bill that would prohibit corporal punishment for disabled students in school. Using Old Testament scripture, he insisted that beating a child is a godly act, even if the child is so severely impaired the punishment is incomprehensible.

Oklahoma Natural Gas provides monthly winners with a \$100 check and certificate. Sweepstakes winners receive \$200 and a plaque from ONG. Contest open to staff at OPA Legal Newspaper and General News Media members, as well as OPA Individual members. Complete contest rules and online submission form available at okpress.com/ong-contest.

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