



AP Associated Press

the **essential** global news network

Legislative Forum Set For Jan. 30

The AP's annual legislative forum is set for Wednesday, Jan. 30, less than a week before the Feb. 4 start of this year's regular session of the Oklahoma Legislature.

This year's meeting will be in Room 511-A, on the 5th floor and the southeast side of the state Capitol. This is a change from previous years when the session has been held in Room 419-C.

Gov. Brad Henry has agreed to attend and discuss his legislative agenda. Also, House Speaker Lance Cargill, House Democratic leader Danny Morgan and Senate leaders Glenn Coffee and Mike Morgan have agreed to be there.

We plan to start at 8:45 a.m. and a box lunch will be available. Please email crobertson@ap.org to request a box lunch for those attending.

Speakers will unveil parts of their legislative and political agendas, discuss their roles in state government and take questions. Here is the complete schedule:

- * 8:45 a.m.: Lt. Gov. Jari Askins welcomes participants.
- * 9 a.m.: Republican Senate co-President Pro Tem Glenn Coffee.
- * 9:30 a.m.: Democratic Senate President Pro Tem Mike Morgan.
- * 10 a.m.: House Democratic leader Danny Morgan.
- * 10:30 a.m.: Republican House Speaker Lance Cargill.
- * 11 a.m.: Gov. Brad Henry.



Governor Brad Henry

FOI Oklahoma soliciting nominations for awards

FOI Oklahoma is accepting nominations for three awards to be presented in the spirit of freedom of information and openness in government. The awards are:

- * The Ben Blackstock Award to the non-governmental person or organization that has shown a commitment to Freedom of Information. The award honors Blackstock, the former long-time executive vice president of the Oklahoma Press Association.
- * The Sunshine Award to a public official or governmental organization that has shown a commitment to freedom of information.
- * The Black Hole Award to an individual, agency or organization that has most thwarted the free flow of information.

Nominations must include a letter of no more than 250 words justifying why the person or organization is deserving of the award. Entries must be submitted and postmarked no later than Feb. 8 and can be mailed or emailed. Mail submissions should be sent to: FOI Awards, Attn: Lindel Hutson, 525 Central Park Drive #202, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Emails may be sent to lhutson@ap.org.

FOI Oklahoma, founded in 1990, is a statewide organization aimed at educating the public on the First Amendment and openness in government.

The organization leads the nation in training educators to teach the First Amendment in Oklahoma classrooms. It sponsors an annual First Amendment Congress for students and professionals.

Many newspapers in Oklahoma went dark when ice covered much of the state. In every newsroom, resourceful managers found a way to get the paper out.

Here's how Managing Editor Andy Rieger and his staff did it at the Norman Transcript:

Headlines, deadlines and power lines

By Andy Rieger, December 13, 2007

Putting out a newspaper is a daily challenge. We struggle with headlines, deadlines and bottom lines. Early this week, it became a struggle with electric lines.

The Transcript office, along with more than half of Norman, lost electrical power Monday morning. Many of our newspaper employees were without electricity at home.

We quickly went into disaster mode, with the publisher locating generators to try to power up the newspaper's computers. A large one owned by our newspaper's parent company was dispatched from Muskogee.

Our backup printing site, the Shawnee News-Star, was having its own power outage and even inquired if we could print their Tuesday edition. The Edmond Sun had power and agreed to print our Tuesday newspaper. They also pitched in and printed The Oklahoma Daily and the Chickasha Express News, two of our daily print jobs.

We needed a place for reporters and editors to work. My home was out of power, too. Our needs were simple: a warm place with electrical power for laptop computers and cell phones, internet access, a fax machine, white board to keep track of who is working on what and a coffee pot. Norman Regional Hospital, itself operating on generators and partial OG&E power, graciously took us in. The public relations department conference table became our newsroom.

We couldn't have asked for better hosts. Our one day in their office became two days and we finally cut the cord there Tuesday evening as our own power at the newspaper office began coming back on.

Local news stories were written on laptop computers, transferred to an editing computer on flashdrives and immediately posted to the newspaper's Web site. Photographs were e-mailed to Edmond. A crew of editors was dispatched to the Edmond newsroom where they pulled stories from our Web site, designed and built pages, placed advertisements and got the paper printed.

A frantic search for the newspaper's front page masthead brought me back to a cold building where the publisher powered up a tiny generator long enough to pull the logo from the newspaper's server. It was loaded on a laptop and e-mailed to Edmond from my in-laws' home that had power.

After rolling off the Edmond press, circulation department employees hauled the newspapers back to Norman where our carriers made their deliveries. More than a few readers were surprised that newspapers got published and delivered.

The Tuesday paper had some things left out and we'll try to make that up. Puzzles, comics and some regular columns had to be punted in order to get the paper out.

By Wednesday morning, full power was restored to the newspaper. Generators were packed up. Power lines, kerosene heaters and laptops put away for another icy day. Now, if my neighborhood could just get some juice back on, life would be back to something resembling normalcy.

AP Oklahoma Web site: <http://www.ap.org/oklahoma>

OKLAHOMA MEMBER SHOWCASE

DECEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH WINNERS

1ST PLACE - Stephen Holman, Tulsa World



A utility crew works on a snapped power lines in Tulsa, Okla., Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2007. An ice storm has knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans.

2ND PLACE - Jim Beckel, The Oklahoman



An unidentified woman is wrapped in a blanket and helped to a warmer location as she and other hotel evacuees were taken from their hotel rooms after fire alarms went off inside the Waterford Marriott Hotel in northwest Oklahoma City shortly after Friday morning, Dec. 14, 2007. Helping her are hotel staff and Oklahoma City Fire Dept. Lt. Jopey Tennill.

3RD PLACE - Billy Hefton, Enid News & Eagle



An Enid firefighter battles a mobile home fire on E. Market St. Friday, Dec. 14, 2007, in Enid, Okla. A woman was injured and transported to a local hospital, according to the Enid News & Eagle.

Member Contributions

The Oklahoman provided a story that legislative support appeared to erode for an anti-illegal-immigration bill that was passed last year. The newspaper also provided a story disclosing that a record number of Oklahomans were infected with West Nile virus this year.

Chris Russell of KOTV in Tulsa provided first word of a double fatality accident that killed two Sand Springs men. He also sent the story of a couple found shot to death in their home by relatives arriving to help put up Christmas decorations. Russell provided information for stories during the ice storm of a Collinsville man who died of carbon monoxide poisoning, a Tulsa man killed in a house fire started by a candle while power was out, and the death of an elderly man who was hit and killed by a utility truck driven by a worker working to restore power.

The Tulsa World had the story that Wal-Mart Supercenter stores are adding Tulsa-based Camille's Sidewalk Cafe restaurants. The World provided a story about the state facing a potentially disastrous wildfire season because of abundant fuel in the form of heavy vegetation and downed timber.

Ken Henson of KWTV in Oklahoma City provided information about Oklahoma City firefighters called to fight two grass fires in south Oklahoma City; sent the story of a police car crashing into a school bus in Enid during a high speed chase and leaving 13 students and the officer injured.

Also from KWTV, Nathan Elliott sent the story about the American Legion successfully completing its fundraising drive to bring home Oklahoma soldiers from Texas so they could spend the Christmas holiday with family before finishing training and being deployed to Iraq.

The Norman Transcript provided a story about a Cleveland County judge sentencing an Oklahoma City man to eight years in prison for stabbing his grandparents after he smoked crack cocaine and drank alcohol.

Kevin King of KTUL in Tulsa sent first word of the planned retirement of Northeastern State University President Larry Williams because of medical complications resulting from a heart attack. King also sent the story of demolition work beginning on the Camelot Hotel, and provided first word on a fatal apartment complex fire that killed one person and injured five others. He also had the story of Tulsa police warning of an ATM scam.

The Muskogee Phoenix provided a story about officials looking for an over-height truck that struck two bridges, causing more than \$300,000 in damage.

Debra Woodall of Tulsa's KRMG sent the story of a man killed when he tried to make a turn at a red light and was hit by a dump truck. She provided first word of an early morning house fire that killed one man and critically injured his wife during the ice storm power outage. Woodall sent the story of state Rep. Lucky Lamons joining the fight to prevent the medical examiner from ending autopsies at the Tulsa office.

From Enid, the News & Eagle provided a story about a police officer getting a reckless driving citation after getting into a traffic accident with a school bus.

The Lawton Constitution provided a story about a fish kill in Medicine Park's Bath Lake, apparently caused by chlorinated water that leaked from a treatment plant.



Oklahoma State's Byron Eaton goes up against Northwestern State's Gerrell Thomas during a basketball game Monday, Dec. 31, 2007, in Stillwater, Okla. (Tulsa World, Jacob Hand.)

Doug Warner of Oklahoma City's KWTU had first word of a house fire near the state fairgrounds that left three dead during the ice storm power outages. He also provided information on a crash in which one person was killed and another man was hit by a car as they were changing a flat tire on the shoulder of Interstate 44 in southwest OKC. Warner also had first word of an Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper arrested early New Year's Day on a domestic abuse and public drunkenness complaint for allegedly taking his girlfriend to her ex-husband's house and assaulting her.

The McAlester News-Capital provided a story about county commissioners considering leasing a building once owned by convicted former state Sen. Gene Stipe.

From Oklahoma City's KOCO, Dave Koester provided the story of a missing piece of detonation cord being found along the Turner Turnpike after disappearing from a well service maintenance truck.

The Journal Record in Oklahoma City provided a story about two men who have started a coffee micro-roastery in Mustang that they hope to expand to up to 10 locations statewide through licensing agreements.

Billie Hill of Lawton's KSWO provided the story of drug testing being started for students in the Boone-Apache School District in Comanche County. She sent the story of a TAG agent and her 8-month-old daughter escaping uninjured during an armed robbery of the agency. She also provided the story of a man trying to run from police who were attempting to arrest him for burglary and he jumped, naked, from an apartment window before finally being arrested.

The Edmond Sun provided a feature about a local couple with a successful business in equipment used to track vehicles.

KTOK's Jerry Bohnen provided information for the story of a man being shot and killed in Duncan by police after the man had taken a hostage at knifepoint inside a Braum's.

The Daily Ardmoreite provided a story about a former drug task force investigator pleading guilty to a charge of the willful neglect of duty by a public official.

From KWEY in Weatherford, Mike Smith had the story of a pawn shop that was robbed at knifepoint.

The Stillwater NewsPress reported about Stillwater officials, citing staffing issues with the city's fire department, asking a local hospital to take over non-emergency ambulance transfers.

A story about state inspectors substantiating complaints that a sick inmate did not receive proper care while being held in the Creek County jail came from the **Sapulpa Daily Herald**.



Oklahoma State coach Sean Sutton watches his team during a basketball game against Northwestern State at Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater, Okla., Monday, Dec. 31, 2007. Oklahoma State won 82-36 (The Oklahoman, Matt Strasen)

From the AP Staff



Judi Boland had her traditional end-of-year recap story, based on member balloting showing that the December ice storms were the top story of 2007,

a year marked by an abundance of severe weather. In addition to this story, the bureau also produced a political and sports year-enders as well as a sidebar on top quotes of the year



Ron Jenkins reported on the failure of the Legislature to adequately fund the Oklahoma Ethics Commission. He also reported that Republicans law-

makers, once dead-set against building a new state prison to house the state's growing prisoner population, appear to be taking a second look at the idea.



Ken Miller helped with coverage of an ice storm that left more than 600,000 homes and businesses blacked out and contributed to two

dozen deaths.



Sean Murphy reported on a lawsuit in which a pair of Oklahoma City employees claimed city officials were playing the Grinch by

banning an annual Christmas party. He also had a national story about Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett's goal of having city residents shed a million pounds in the new year.



Murray Evans covered Burns Hargis' appointment as the new president of Oklahoma State University. He also had a story about Oklahoma

setting a national record for most presidential disaster declarations for one state in a calendar year.



Tulsa's Justin Juozapavicius had stories about attempts at Oral Roberts University to recover from a financial scandal that has rocked the

evangelical school and its president, Richard Roberts. He also reported that after 11 months of delays, a decision by Smithfield Beef on whether it will go ahead with plans to build the nation's biggest beef processing plant could be years away.



Tim Talley had a story about hunger in Oklahoma, which ranks fifth worst in the nation in the number of households lacking sufficient food.

He also covered a bipartisan group of former U.S. senators, governors and party leaders who met at the University of Oklahoma who called for presidential candidates to stop their partisan bickering and focus on answers to pressing problems facing the nation.



Rick Green reported on Chesapeake Energy Corp.'s decision to sell more than \$1 billion in natural gas wells to fund more profitable drilling

and to help reduce company debt.



Rochelle Hines had a story about Beverly Smith of Choctaw, who feared a December ice storm would

spoil her Christmas before people around the nation read of her plight in AP coverage and offered to help.



Jeff Lutzke went to Arizona to cover the Fiesta and Insight bowls, reporting on Oklahoma's 48-28 loss to West Virginia and Oklahoma State's 49-33

victory over Indiana. He also covered the story of Oklahoma City Schools Superintendent John Porter, who was suspended amid accusations of wrongdoing.



AP Oklahoma Web site: <http://www.ap.org/oklahoma>

SAVE THE DATE



The AP invites you to brunch on
Sunday, February 24th

at the **2008 NAA Marketing Conference** in Orlando, FL.

Please join us to discuss the exciting changes happening at the AP, including the new Member Choice services and the Digital Cooperative.

More details to follow. For additional information, please contact Allison Stahley at ASTahley@ap.org



Special Editions for January:

The "Taxes" Special Edition will move Tuesday, Jan. 15. The package, accompanied by graphics, will look at what's new this year for tax-filers, with special stories on mortgages, education, energy, the "kiddie tax", charitable deductions and more. Glances and checklists include heads-ups on late changes and sources for free help. All stories are by Washington writer Eileen Putman.

Other Special Editions in the year ahead:

Feb. 5 – Home/Garden

March 4 – Pets

April 1 – Boomers

May 6 – Outdoors

June 3 – Weddings

July 8 – Back to School

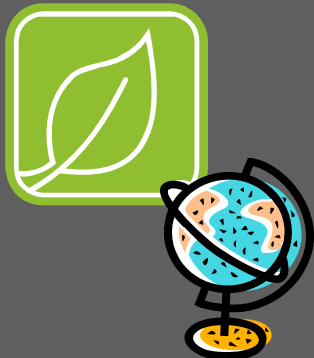
Aug. 5 – Teens & Tweens

Sep. 9 – Cars

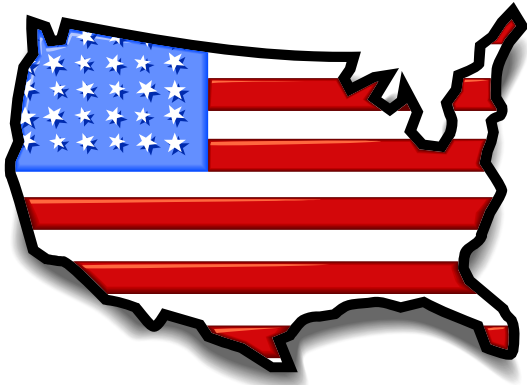
Oct. 7 – Crafts/Hobbies

Nov. 4 – Holidays

Dec. 9 – Weddings



AP Product News



AP Elections 2008

For the first time since 1928, in 2008 neither a sitting President nor Vice President will be a candidate for nomination to the Presidency. Both parties have open races. The states have added excitement by turning the election calendar on its head, setting up the largest election event outside of a general election that the AP has ever covered on Feb. 5.

Take advantage of our presidential primary packages, our new Web service-- Campaign Plus, and our full compliment of online and print products for this historic election season.

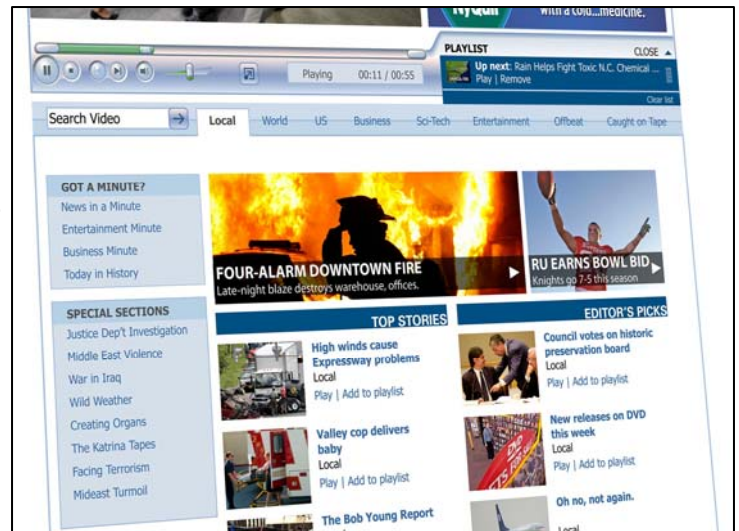
For more information contact your local chief of bureau.



Online Video Network – Local Video Option

AP brings you a powerful new tool to help you present and profit from your local video. You can present your own content alongside AP video in your Online Video Network Player, and sell pre-roll spots to your local advertisers. OVN Local is one of the easiest ways for you to get your footage online and earning new revenue.

For more information contact your local chief of bureau.



Online tools for tracking winter weather

With winter storms sweeping the country, the Associated Press offers services to make your Web site the destination for weather updates. Hosted Custom News offers a Severe Weather section, with latest weather stories, interactives, photo galleries and a zip-code based weather forecast search tool.

AP also offers OPENS, the Organizations, Places and Events Notification System, which gives you the tools to collect and distribute information without missing a beat. It keeps up with the rapidly changing school closings and event cancellations without diverting your resources from news coverage. Site visitors can access real-time closing and event information automatically through the OPENS Web interface.



AP Money & Markets EXTRA

AP Money & Markets Extra gives your readers investing news, trends and tools geared to weekend newspapers. By the weekend, investors know what the market did during the week. They want to understand performance and learn about trends. With more than 30 visually appealing, analytic modules, you can give them the information they want. For most members already taking a stock service, Money & Markets Extra is available at no extra cost.

For examples of the 30 modules and more information about M&M Extra, check out www.ap.org/markets. To join a conference call and Webex to hear about the latest developments, contact your AP chief of bureau.



MTV recruits 51 youths to cover 2008 elections on video; Associated Press will help distribute

MTV, part of the media conglomerate Viacom Inc., has recruited 51 youths to cover the 2008 elections throughout the country with weekly reports that will include short videos, blogs and animation. The reports will be distributed through Think.MTV.com, an issue-based political and community Web site run by MTV; to mobile devices through a soon-to-be launched service called MTV Mobile; and through The Associated Press' Online Video Network, a video news service that is hosted by more than 1,800 Web sites.

The arrangement announced is part of MTV's "Choose or Lose" political awareness campaign and was funded partly by a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, a private journalism foundation based in Miami. The participants in the program will be equipped with laptop computers, cell phones and video cameras and tasked with finding political stories that will particularly resonate with young people. Participants in the "Street Team '08" project have profiles on Think.MTV.com. MTV recruited one member from every state as well as Washington, D.C.

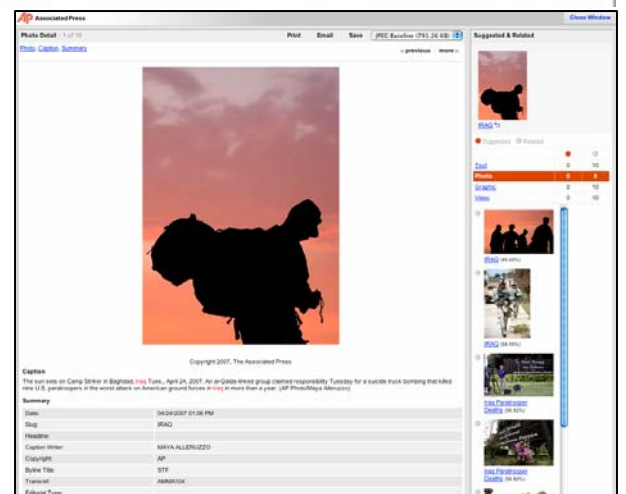
Read the complete press releases on AP's corporate Web site at: http://www.ap.org/pages/about/whatsnew/wn_122007a.html and <http://www.ap.org/pages/about/whatsnew/documents/pressreleasestreetteam2008.pdf>



AP Exchange offers new features and training

Many editors have started working with AP Exchange in the past few weeks. As with any new system, there is a learning curve and we'd like to help with this as much as possible. To get the most out of AP Exchange, AP offers online training for your newsroom to teach some of these enhanced features. Additionally, AP Channels are a powerful new source of subject-specific news from the AP. Available only in AP Exchange, AP Channels scour the entire AP report for news on specific topics. It's content beyond what members have ever had access to. The most popular AP Channel is Education.

Editors who have access to this Channel receive all education stories from all AP state wires and English international wires. For education reporters, this Education Channel provides a rich source of news for print and online. Other popular Channels include Kids and Family, Environment, Health, Energy and Crime.



For information please contact your AP bureau chief or email us at talkback@ap.org.