



In this issue.....

*AP/ONE Convention...February Photo of the Month...New AP Photo Contest...Sunshine Week...
New Ponca City Editor...Member contributions... From the AP staff....AP Product News...*

AP/ONE Convention is March 31

It's time to make reservations for the AP/ONE Banquet and Convention, which is March 31 at the Oklahoma City Northwest Marriott.

An afternoon of programs on covering American Indians is taking shape with Suzan Shown Harjo of Washington and Louis Gray of Bartlesville agreeing to participate. The workshops will begin at 1 p.m. and the banquet at 7 p.m.

The Marriott is holding a block of rooms at a special rate of \$84 until Friday, March 16. We recommend you call the Marriott (405-842-6633) as soon as possible to take advantage of this rate. Ask for the Associated Press or AP/ONE rate.



Suzan Shown Harjo (Cheyenne & Hodulgee Muscogee) is a leader in cultural property protection and stereotype busting. She was part of the group of seven who filed the 1992 lawsuit regarding the name of the Washington Redskins football team. The case currently is before the U.S. Court of Appeals.

She is executive director of The Morning Star Institute, a national Native American rights organization founded in 1984. She is a poet, writer, lecturer, curator and policy advocate who has helped Native Americans recover more than one million acres of land and numerous sacred places. She has developed key federal Indian law since 1975, including important national policy advances for protection of Native American cultures and arts.

Louis Gray is a three-quarters blood Osage who is involved in all phases of Native American culture. He is the founder and president of the Tulsa Indian Coalition Against Racism. He works with educational institutions, journalists and legislators to end the use of Indians as mascot. He says his work has been to educate not to protest.

Gray has worked as a reporter for the Osage Nation News and the Native American Times. While with the Times, he won a first place in editorial writing from the Oklahoma Press Association. He helped the Osage start their tribal language program. He has worked with groups dealing with oil and gas theft and policy changes to safeguard minerals. Gray is a drug and alcohol counselor for the Osage Nation. He has served for the last four years on the Palmer Alcohol and Drug Program in Tulsa. He lives in Bartlesville.



OKLAHOMA MEMBER SHOWCASE



February Photo of the Month



Matt Olsen of Enid, Okla., seated on roadway, is attended to by paramedics and police officers after he crashed a Ford Expedition into a canal after a chase through Enid, Okla., neighborhoods Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007. Authorities in Edmond, Okla., reported the vehicle as stolen. Olsen had felony warrants out for his arrest and officers discovered drugs inside the Ford, according to police. (AP Photo/Enid News & Eagle, Andy Carpenear)

NEW AP PHOTO CONTEST BEGAN MARCH 1

The Oklahoma AP's new monthly photo contest was launched March 1 and three prizes will be awarded to photographers whose photo moves on AP's PhotoStream.

First-place winners will receive \$300, while \$150 goes to the second-place winner and \$50 for third.

The photos will be featured each month in this newsletter and on the state Web site, www.ap.org/oklahoma

The AP remains a cooperative built on the concept of members sharing photos and news for the good of all. Oklahoma members traditionally have been among the best contributors in the country.

Hmmmm... Co-Senate Pro Tems Glenn Coffee, R-Oklahoma City (left), and Mike Morgan, D-Stillwater, answer questions at the AP's Legislative Day workshop at the Capitol at the start of the current session.





March 11 marks the kickoff for the third annual Sunshine Week, a national initiative in which journalism organizations band together for a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.

To mark the occasion this year, The Associated Press will offer a national look at the enforcement -- or, mostly, lack thereof -- of open government laws when they are violated.

SUNSHINE WEEK - Each state has enshrined in law a commitment to making government records and meetings open to the public. But a willingness to put teeth into those laws is harder to find - with many states imposing only the mildest of penalties for failure to comply, often with standards so high that they rarely, if ever, kick in, an Associated Press analysis finds. The analysis also finds that - in the handful of states that monitor such cases - the government usually wins when citizens appeal over sunshine disputes and manages to keep public business secret. By National Writer Robert Tanner. About 1,500 words, to advance for Sunday, March 11. With AP Graphics.

Oklahoma and many states will be providing sidebars to accompany the national package, which also will feature a multimedia package for Hosted Custom News and AP Online subscribers. With: BC-Sunshine Week-Glance. BC-Sunshine Week-Q&A. In question-and-answer form, AP President and CEO Tom Curley addresses the latest developments regarding freedom of information and media access.

Questions about the package should be addressed to National Reporting Team Editor John Affleck at [jaffleck\(at\)ap.org](mailto:jaffleck(at)ap.org) or 212-621-7352.



Kristi Hayes Named Managing Editor as Foster Johnson Retires

Tom Muchmore, editor and publisher of The Ponca City News, has announced the retirement of Managing Editor Foster Johnson and the promotion of Education Editor Kristi Hayes to fill that position, effective March 1.

In making the announcement, Muchmore said, "We deeply appreciate the years that Foster Johnson has spent doing an excellent job of running our newsroom and guiding The Ponca City News with a calm and knowledgeable hand. His experience and judgment have served Ponca City well for more than 20 years."

He said of Johnson's successor, "With his retirement we are pleased to have a very qualified journalist already in our company to fill the position of managing editor. Over the past 10 years Kristi has shown that she has the journalistic ability, judgment and intellect to lead the newsroom into the future."

He added, "She will continue to position The Ponca City News as a fair and factual center of information for Ponca City and all of North Central Oklahoma."

Noting ongoing changes in "new media" such as online newspapers, streaming video, podcasting and blogging, Muchmore said, "Kristi will help guide The News as we continue to explore new methods of distributing the information vital to our readers while maintaining The Ponca City News as the newspaper on which we can depend."

Member Contributions:

Seven Oklahoma governors posed for the **Oklahoman's Brian Terry** at the opening of an exhibit on the state's governors at the Oklahoma History Center.

The Oklahoman provided a story that Oklahoma County District Attorney David Prater called for changes in a sex-offender law that he said is "almost unenforceable." The newspaper also provided a story about bombing conspirator Terry Nichols claiming Timothy McVeigh once said a top FBI official was behind the Oklahoma City bombing.



Member Contributions:

From **Tulsa, the World** provided a story that a federal magistrate had ruled that Attorney general Drew Edmondson should not be deposed in his lawsuit against poultry companies. The World also provided details when the state Pardon and Parole Board denied parole for a former police officer convicted in the 1982 death of a Tulsa woman who was shot with a poisoned crossbow arrow.

Also from **Tulsa, KOTV's Chris Russell** offered several news tips, including one that the flu outbreak at Skiatook schools caused more than 300 students to be absent. He also shared the news when police raided a suspected bookmaking operation in Claremore and turned up a \$1,000 bill from 1934.

The **Woodward News** provided a story that a judge ordered a murder trial for a woman charged with her 6-year-old son's death be moved from Woodward County to neighboring Woods County.

Steve Johnson of Oklahoma City's KFOR-TV had first word of a train derailment at Jones.

The **Tahlequah Daily Press** provided a feature on single-gender classrooms.

Dave Koester of Oklahoma City's KOCO-TV reported that a doctor in Perry was attacked at his office and robbed of drugs.

The **Enid News & Eagle** had the story when plans for an ethanol plant were put on hold.

From **Oklahoma City, The Journal Record** provided a feature about a violin shop and the strong reputation it has built.

Ken Henson of Oklahoma City's KWTV reported that a grass fire had spread throughout an Oklahoma City salvage yard and burned dozens of cars.

The Lawton Constitution provided a story about a veteran volunteer firefighter struggling to recover from serious burns.

Richard Dowdell of Tulsa's KRMG reported that a chunk of Interstate 44 had fallen onto a Tulsa street for the second time in less than a month. Also from **KRMG, Debra Woodall** had the story that state Sen. Mike Mazzei donated 20 percent of his salary to Broken Arrow public schools.

From **Muskogee, the Phoenix** provided a story about the Hilldale School District being accused of violating the state's Open Meeting Act.

From **KTOK in Oklahoma City, Tim Granahan** broke the story that two Oklahoma City 14-year-olds were arrested at a middle school after being found with marijuana.

The Norman Transcript offered its story that Norman Regional Health System had purchased Moore Medical Center.

A story about a federal lawsuit alleging that Eufaula High School does not give girls' sports as much support as it provides to boys' athletics was reported by the **McAlester News-Capital**.

The Shawnee News-Star provided a feature about a 77-year-old man who has been retired from Tinker Air Force Base for 20 years and gone into business shining shoes.

Kevin King of Tulsa's KTUL provided several stories, including a report from Payne County about a man who committed suicide in jail. He also had the story that Braggs school officials and police were investigating reports of a student carrying a gun on school campus, and that historic Tulsa Union Rail Depot was damaged by fire.

The **Daily Ardmoreite** provided a feature profiling musician Dale Lay of Kingston.

The **Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise** had a story about Oklahoma Wesleyan University holding an eBay auction of a year of tuition, room and board at the private college.

From the AP Staff:



Juozapavicius

Tulsa Correspondent **Justin Juozapavicius** reported from two small Oklahoma towns in February. First, from the Panhandle town of Hooker, residents were thrilled and then disappointed by Smithfield Foods plans to build one of the country's largest beef plants there. Another story revealed how Picher, Okla., is in the middle of one of the nation's worst environmental nightmares.

He also reported from Stillwater about the eminent domain case which pits Oklahoma State University against a holdout homeowner who stands in the way of the school's huge athletic village.

After Miss Oklahoma won the Miss America title two years in a row, **Juozapavicius** wrote a story explaining why the state has been so successful. He also profiled Joey Senat of Stillwater, the president of Freedom of Information/Oklahoma, and the fight to preserve open records laws in the state.



Jenkins

From the Capitol, **Ron Jenkins** broke news that the House speaker solicited money from lobbyists at a private meeting a day before the speaker announced a plan to promote openness in political fundraising.

Jenkins had several Sunday stories: Gov. Brad Henry's efforts to do something about the 650,000 Oklahomans who have no health insurance; a Senate committee that is essentially killing hundreds of bills, and complaints of illegal activity involving district attorneys in Oklahoma. **Jenkins** profiled reclusive former Gov. David Hall who was sent to jail on bribery and extortion charges. Hall said he has been scratching out a living as a "glorified paralegal."

Jenkins also reported a dispute over chicken salad and what led officials to close two snack bars run by a visually impaired vendor at the state Capitol.



Talley

Tim Talley covered the \$55 million refurbishment of the Skirvin Hotel, an ornate landmark that has been boarded up for decades and is now emerging as a Hilton hotel.

Talley also had the story of an investigation of an election complaint filed against U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn, and an initiative by the House Speaker Lance Cargill's "100 Ideas," which has drawn criticism for not revealing its funding source. He also profiled Cargill, the youngest House speaker in the nation.

Many papers carried **Talley's** story explaining how wind power is increasingly being utilized in the oil patch as the costs of fossil fuels rises and concerns about global warming grows.



Murphy

Newsmen **Murray Evans and Sean Murphy** provided a three-story series about major economic gains being made in three southern Oklahoma cities that until recently were facing hard economic times: Lawton, Durant and Ardmore.

Murphy had the story when editors at the University of Oklahoma student newspaper attached condoms to the front page of the publication.



Evans

Evans unveiled that a man who died while committing a home invasion robbery was once one of best prep wide receivers in state history.



Latzke

Jeff Latzke had a national story about a former Southern Baptist church leader on trial for allegedly propositioning a male undercover policeman. The leader had been an outspoken opponent of homosexuality.

AP Products

AP Money & Markets

See AP Money & Markets in use by papers around the country

For general information about the service, and to see detailed descriptions and samples of all the modules the service offers, check out www.ap.org/markets.

AP's MoneyWire to launch new offerings in March

You will notice a fresher look to MoneyWire as in March. The new MoneyWire will offer nine charts on key market indicators, the performance of 10 most active stocks, and a stock look-up box in a concise, attractive package.

The stock look-up function will be phased out in July.



MoneyWire is one of several online financial data services AP offers, including AP Money & Markets and AP Financial Tools. For many subscribers, Money & Markets for print and online is available for no added fee. For some, it may require a small upgrade fee.

AP Exchange

AP offers School of Search to make the most of AP Exchange's search functionality

One of the highlights of AP Exchange, the new Web-based view of AP content, is its ability to more easily find the content most important to your readers and Web site users. Time-crunched journalists can quickly find the most locally relevant material one time or through automated saved searches that continually scan AP content.

Printed help tools are given to every newspaper's site administrator and there is a help button on every user's AP Exchange interface (home page, upper right-hand corner).

In addition, new users are invited to join the AP Exchange "School of Search" at 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET every Thursday. It's a 30-minute online training session designed to show you tips, tricks and shortcuts for building really efficient searches in AP Exchange and answer any questions. The sessions involve phone discussion as well as a hosted Web demonstration. Site administrators can participate in similar but more focused training every Monday at noon ET.

To participate in either session, RSVP to talkback@ap.org.

Plan now for elections, both this year and in 2008

With all the campaign attention focused on the race for the White House next year and voter fatigue from last year's contested battle for Congress, it could be easy to overlook the 2007 elections that started in February.



The races for governor in Kentucky, Mississippi and Louisiana have already started to heat up. These contests will be closely watched to gauge the mood of the country as we head into 2008.

In February, we had elections in New York for state senate in district 7 and city council races in districts 40 and 51; in Wisconsin, there was a primary contest for the state supreme court; in Louisiana, there was an open primary for the state house district 1 seat; and, in Chicago, we had municipal primaries, including the mayoral, county clerk, treasurer and alderman races.

All of this is taking place at a dramatic time in American politics. According to the New York Times, Gov. Charlie Crist of Florida announced plans to abandon the touch-screen voting machines and adopt a system of casting paper ballots counted by scanning machines in time for the 2008 presidential election. Other states also will make adjustments to their voting equipment and procedures in preparation for what promises to be a contentious presidential election year.

The AP will cover all of these races and results will be available in satellite, XML, FTP and hosted formats. We will also track all the changes in voting procedures and equipments in all 50 states and the District of Columbia as we prepare for the 2008 presidential election cycle.



Online Newspaper services at new Web site page

We've created a page devoted to AP's Online Newspaper services at www.ap.org/newspapers. Find out about online services, see links to sites using the services, and find links and contact information to the Online Newspaper team.

State News Online keeps your Web site local and fresh

AP State News Online gives your Web site the full range of AP's state news reports: politics, legislative and government news, business, sports, features and more.

With State News Online, breaking news from your state appears as it happens, and is updated quickly and accurately 24/7. Headline packages with up to 10 top items linked to a state's top stories are updated six times an hour to provide readers with the most up-to-date news at a glance.

For more information, ask your local chief of bureau and see www.ap.org/newspapers.

Special Editions Package

Next up for Special Editions is Spring Home and Garden. Stories include: alternatives to a grass lawn; sorting through the options for backyard playground equipment; and looks at apartment living, spring cleaning and how to eat decently while redoing your kitchen. That package will move on March 6.