

Associated Press Oklahoma AP Newsletter

December 2005

We Won



The Oklahoma AP won a Katie Award from the Press Club of Dallas for the series that looked at the state's military installations. The series was produced by (left to right) Tim Talley, Sean Murphy and Kelly Kurt. Talley, Murphy and Julie Bisbee, now at The Oklahoman, were the primary reporters. Kurt edited the series.

Administrative Assistant Cara Robertson put Santa caps on some of the bureau's Katie Awards. Here she shows her work to Broadcast Editor Ken Miller (left) and News Editor Rick Green.



Seeing Stars



The AP's Oklahoma City Sports Writer Jeff Latzke interviews the Hornets' Desmond Mason shortly after the former Oklahoma State standout joined the team. It's been a busy sports season for Latzke and others in the bureau because of the arrival of the Hornets.

Coming Home

Murray Evans joins the Oklahoma City AP staff this month from Lexington, KY, where he has been correspondent responsible for sports and general news in a busy part of that state. Murray is a former staffer at The Oklahoman where he covered the state's small colleges and high schools. He also worked out of The Oklahoman's Norman bureau for a time. He and wife Grace, a native of Clearwater, Kan., have one son and are expecting their second child in March.



Hearing Voices



Some of the AP staffers whose voices you often hear on the other end of the phone are Judi Boland (left), the Oklahoma City editorial assistant, and veteran Newswoman Rochelle Hines.

Photo of the month



Wildfires have been a major problem throughout the state due to high winds and extremely dry conditions. This photo of a firefighter working near Velma by Roger Calger of the Duncan Banner is the AP's Photo of the Month for November.

Member Contributions

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There was plenty of news in November and members across the state shared their stories with the AP.

One well-played story came from the Muskogee Phoenix about an Oklahoma man who filed a lawsuit against producers of the "Wife Swap" television show. He wants \$10.2 million for the problems he says he suffered after producers sent a gay man to his home for the swap.

The Phoenix also contributed a story about the sentencing of Kenneth Barrett to death for the murder of a state trooper during a raid on Barrett's Sequoyah County home.

From The Norman Transcript came a story about a man accused of selling more than 10 million tablets of pseudoephedrine, the main ingredient in the manufacture of methamphetamine. He allegedly provided these tablets to convenience stores, bait shops, smoke shops and head shops throughout Oklahoma.

The Tulsa World provided a story about plans for the federal government to reimburse the state nearly \$4.9 million for services rendered to Hurricane Katrina evacuees, who were lodged at the National Guard's Camp Gruber. The World also sent a story about a group of Marines with an anti-tank training company who were preparing to report for deployment to Iraq.

The Oklahoman contributed a story about an undercover state narcotics agent who was killed in a road-rage incident. The newspaper also provided an interesting story about Heisman Trophy-winner Jason White, who has begun a career in finance after abandoning dreams of playing in the NFL.

The Journal Record in Oklahoma City had a story detailing the total sales figures for the Bass Pro Outdoor World store in Oklahoma City. The figures, which were flat this year compared to last, are important as city officials said increased sales tax from the store would help defray the \$19 million the city spent in building the project.

The Enid News & Eagle provided an interesting story about a police officer who has been fired and is being prosecuted for theft from an automated self-checkout station at a grocery store.

The McAlester News-Capital provided a story about how the city council, trying to plug a \$1 million budget hole, has approved a 30 percent increase for water, sewer and trash pickup.

AP/ONE Contest

Contest time is here...

Editors should have received instructions and ballot information for the AP/ONE newspaper contest. The deadline for submitting entries to AP is Jan. 17. Dates used in the General Excellence category of the contest are Oct. 11, 12 and 13. Make plans now to attend the annual AP/ONE Awards Banquet, which is April 1 at Tulsa's downtown Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Olympics Online

Olympics Online

AP is offering online packages for the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy. The options give your paper simple tools to present high-quality Winter Games content within your templates, carrying your ads to make the most of this high-interest event. Our coverage will include in-depth preview packages beginning Feb. 1. You will get a steady stream of breaking news, features, photo galleries, blogs, full results, medal tables lists for each country, and two levels of interactive, multimedia packages. Contact Chief of Bureau Lindel Hutson, lhutson@ap.org, for information on this and any other AP product.

Online Video Network

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AP is launching the Online Video Network this January to provide members an easy way to add high-quality video to your online news sites and to profit from the growing reader and advertiser interest in video online. We provide you with a turn-key service that keeps your Web site's branding. The ad-supported network means members get AP's award-winning coverage at no out-of-pocket cost, in exchange for promoting it. Please contact COB Hutson with questions or to join the video network.

AP,MSN Align

AP, MSN Align For New Internet Video Network

The Associated Press and Microsoft announced that they are teaming to develop the AP Online Video Network to provide AP members with news video for their Web sites. AP member Web sites participating in the AP Online Video Network receive a custom-branded MSN ® Video player, daily news video from AP, prestream advertising to run adjacent to the video in the player, and a share of the advertising revenue. Press release available on AP.org: http://www.ap.org/pages/about/pressreleases/pr_110905a.htm .

APIimages.com

APIimages.com -- Improved Access to AP Photos

AP has made an important change to help members better access photos from various AP Web sites. AP Images is a new gateway site to the AP Photo Archive, Photo Rerun, World

Photos and AP/WideWorld. APImage.com offers a clean, streamlined presentation and an easy way for members to address all of their photo needs from one place. It is the first step toward phasing out older Web-based photo delivery systems. Learn more by visiting the AP Image.com Web site: http://www.apimages.com/eng/about/quick_tour.html .

Happy Holidays from the Oklahoma AP



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