

Associated Press Oklahoma Newsletter

January 2006

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Capitalize at the Capitol...



The 2006 session of the Oklahoma Legislature is nearly here and you can get an early look at the issues and personalities by sending a staffer to the AP's third-annual Legislative Workshop, Feb. 1. The session is open to both newspaper and broadcast members of the AP and starts in Room 419-C with a welcome at 10:45.

Gov. Brad Henry will be there at 11 a.m. to talk about his programs. He's expected to make a special announcement. Following the governor, Senate President Pro Tem Mike Morgan will speak. We'll have sandwiches available at 1 p.m., and that will be followed by House Speaker Todd Hiett at 1:30. There will be a question and answer session with each speaker. There's no limit on the number of people you can send, but we **MUST** know in advance how many so we can have enough food available. Please e-mail or call Cara Robertson (crobertson@ap.org, 1-800-522-3522) and give us a head count.

Veterans...

The AP's legislative coverage veterans, Ron Jenkins (seated) and Tim Talley, return for the '06 session. Jenkins is one of the most seasoned reporters at the Capitol. He has covered the Oklahoma legislature for nearly 30 years, reporting on the administrations of six governors and countless legislators. Talley has been with AP-Oklahoma for a decade, much of it covering the Capitol, politics and courts.



Contest Time...

It's time for newspapers to get their entries ready for the annual AP/ONE contest. Entries must be postmarked or hand delivered no later than 4:00 p.m. Jan 17. A reminder that the dates for the 2005 General Excellence category of the contest were Oct. 11, 12 and 13. It's not too early to make plans to attend the annual AP/ONE Awards Banquet, which will begin at 7 p.m. on April 1 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Tulsa.

Oklahoma Burning...

The state's top story has been the dozens of fires and efforts by firefighters to bring them under control. Reporters and photographers have shared their work with the AP:



Paul Hellstern, The Oklahoman, shot this photo of a Blackhawk helicopter dumping water on a fire near Shamrock.



From the Norman Transcript's Randy Ellis came this photo of firefighters near Newcastle.



Tulsa World's Kelly Kerr captured this shot of three Shamrock classmates watching their school go up in flames.



Ashley Salyer of the Cushing Daily Citizen had this photo of fire in the old Shamrock elementary school.

Seeing Red...

Not everything red in December was burning. This is AP's Oklahoma Photo of the Month: Santa gets a better look at 9-month-old Ian Knisely at Penn Square Mall in Oklahoma City. Photo by Jim Beckel of The Oklahoman.



Brandi's Back...



Brandi Simons has returned to Tulsa and is now doing freelance work for AP. Brandi's husband, Mike Simons, has joined the Tulsa World as a staff photographer. Brandi started her career in photojournalism 13 years ago at the World and has spent the last five years as a staffer at the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Caption Tip...

PhotoShop changes have resulted in some captioning style changes that may cause confusion in sending photos to AP. Bob Meyers, the AP State Photo Center's day supervisor, offers this tip for coping with those changes:

"One way to simplify preparation for AP for members would be for them to capture one of their own photos that AP has moved, download it and open it in their version of Photoshop. They could then save the file info as a template and upload it each time they need to send a photo to AP to help them remember where things go. They still need to edit it, updating the correct byline, the information in the caption, location and date, but it would be a good starting place."

Member Help...

Among recent contributions to the Oklahoma AP report were these:

When a water main broke and knocked out power on Dec. 7, the Tulsa World editors had plenty to do, including figuring out how they were going to publish the next morning's paper. Yet with all they had to think about, they didn't forget AP. World editors called early to advise of the breaking story of the major electrical outage. Other recent contributions included one about the explosive growth of sales tax revenue in Jenks and another about the top salaries of public employees in Oklahoma -- with college coaches leading the pack.

The Stillwater NewsPress and the Tulsa World provided stories about NAACP leaders demanding an investigation of an all-white jury's acquittal of a white landlord in the death of his former tenant, a black man, who owed him back rent.

The Enid News & Eagle was instrumental in some of the early coverage of unusual releases of natural gas along a creek near Kingfisher, supplying both stories and photos.

Oklahoma City's KFOR-TV helped with information about the Tulsa pastor arrested on a lewdness complaint for allegedly propositioning an undercover policeman.

The Muskogee Phoenix provided an interesting story about a construction company owner and another man who were indicted on charges of conspiracy and witness intimidation.

Among the many stories provided by The Oklahoman in December was one on how people who had not received their tax rebate checks were swamping the state treasurer's office with phone calls. The Oklahoman also had the story disclosing that much of a half million dollars raised by a group supporting a measure to limit government spending increases came from out-of-state organizations.

The Edmond Sun supplied a good story about Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson's re-election plans, including word that he hasn't completely ruled out a run at another office.

The Journal Record supplied a story about a newly opened tasting room for wine that is designed to raise the profile of the 30 wineries in the state.

The Norman Transcript provided a story about a planned hearing on whether the trial of a man accused in the death of a University of Oklahoma ballet student should be held at the OU College of Law.

The McAlester News-Capital provided a story about plans by a food products plant to relocate to McAlester after its facilities were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Tulsa's KOTV and radio station KRMG helped AP with the story of the deaths of two women at an apartment complex in the central section of the city.

The Anadarko News helped by providing original documentation and a photograph to go with a story about arson charges against the son of a retired fire official.

The Daily Ardmoreite provided a story about an officer-involved shooting near Lake Texoma Lodge involving a felony suspect.

KOTV in Tulsa provided help with the story of Jenks soldier Tobias Meister, who was killed while on patrol in Afghanistan.

The McCurtain Daily Gazette supplied a story about how a military satellite was used to gather intelligence from a white separatist enclave after the Oklahoma City bombing.

From KTUL in Tulsa came a report that three women who work at a Broken Arrow massage therapy salon were arrested on prostitution-related charges.

The Poteau Daily News supplied a story about a subsidiary of power company AES Corp. planning to develop a new coal mining operation near Spiro.

Oklahoma City's KTOK radio had the story that calls to the state's Arson Hotline have reported people tossing cigarettes out of car windows.

The Sapulpa Daily Herald for a story about a teenager who died of an antibiotic-resistant strain of bacteria.

Product news from the AP...

Online Video Network

AP is launching the Online Video Network 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 Chief of Bureau Lindel Hutson with questions or to join the video network: lhutson@ap.org

STATS PASS

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AP is offering STATS PASS, the ultimate online information tool for sports research. It draws upon the massive STATS proprietary database and taps an almost limitless supply of statistical leaders and trailers, splits, situation breakdowns, player and team game logs and historical data. STATS PASS draws on data from STATS LLC, a leader in sports statistics for more than two decades. STATS PASS offers complete current and historic data on NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, NCAA football and men's Division I NCAA basketball. With STATS PASS your reporters have a rich, easily accessible source of data to add depth to a feature story or when filing on deadline from the press box. Please contact COB Hutson to arrange a free trial. lhutson@ap.org

Olympics Online

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AP is offering online packages for the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy. Members will be able to present the high-quality Winter Games content within your own templates, which you can upload to AP via a simple Web interface, and retain all the ad inventory on those templates. Hosted Winter Games will work

Company News

just like Hosted CustomNews. 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.

AP releases policy on news values and principles

The Associated Press has adopted a comprehensive set of policies on standards and practices in journalism, guiding everything from the use of anonymous sources to quotations and datelines. The statement, produced over the past year by leaders of AP's news departments, constitutes the most detailed and thorough enunciation of news values and principles in the organization's 157-year history. The Associated Press Statement of News Values and Principles is posted on the AP Web site at www.ap.org/pages/about/whatsnew/wn_112905.html.

Kristie Kiernan Bouryal named AP deputy director of U.S. online newspaper markets

Kristie Kiernan Bouryal, assistant chief of bureau for The Associated Press in Pennsylvania, has been appointed deputy director of U.S. online newspaper markets. Bouryal will serve as a product manager for newspaper online services and is part of a team helping U.S. newspapers grow their new media audiences and businesses. Details available at: http://www.ap.org/pages/about/pressreleases/pr_120805a.html

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