

# The Oklahoma Publisher

Official Publication of the Oklahoma Press Association

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New owners were announced at The Elk City News, Mustang News, Stroud American and Yukon Review.

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### DONATE TO ONF

to receive this Will Rogers print. Details at [OkPress.com/will-rogers](http://OkPress.com/will-rogers).



## Contest honors newspapers, staff

The deadline for the 2017 Oklahoma Press Association Better Newspaper Contest is approaching and we want to award the talent at your newspaper.

Did you have a great news story, sports story, column, feature or editorial during 2017? Enter it in the contest. How about an amazing print ad? Enter it in the contest. An amazing front-page design? Yeah, you can enter that, too. We didn't forget photographers, either. This year, you can enter individual news, feature or sports photos in the contest.

And, many of the categories for staff members and newspapers allow up to four entries per newspaper.

You're not too big or too small to enter the annual newspaper contest. OPA business members will compete in nine circulation divisions to level the playing field.

To paraphrase two Oklahoma journalism professors, good writing is good writing whether it's in the New York Times or a small-town Oklahoma newspaper. The same is true for ad design, page layout, photography and other categories in this year's contest. The smallest newspaper in the state could have the best entry and be recognized for its work.

The deadline for entries is Monday, Feb. 12, 2018. Most entries will be judged as full-page digital tearsheets in PDF format.

Now it's easier than ever to choose entries and upload PDFs. Simply click a couple of links and type in a few words.

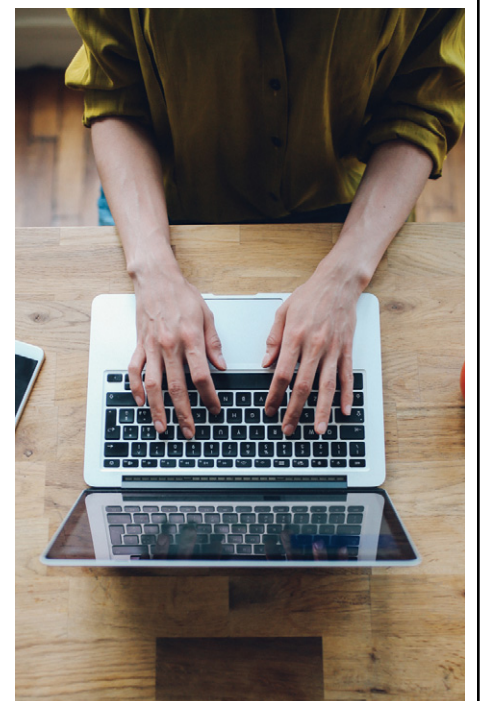
### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ENTERING THE 2017 OPA BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

ENTRY DEADLINE:  
**MONDAY, FEB. 8, 2018**

CONTEST RULES:  
[www.okpress.com/contest](http://www.okpress.com/contest)

UPLOAD ENTRIES AT:  
[www.betternewspapercontest.com/OPA](http://www.betternewspapercontest.com/OPA)

QUESTIONS?  
Contact Lisa Sutliff, [LSutliff@okpress.com](mailto:LSutliff@okpress.com)  
or Jennifer Gilliland, [jgilliland@okpress.com](mailto:jgilliland@okpress.com)  
or phone (405) 499-0020  
1-888-815-2672 (toll-free in state)



Several of you already have experience with these online contest platforms having judged other states' contests.

It's a new process but we've created step-by-step instructions to guide you through the operation. If you still have questions or are having problems, just give us a call.

Make this the year that you enter the OPA Better Newspaper Contest. Whether it's entering one category or all 20, it's your opportunity to receive recognition for your hard work.

## OPA members to meet at capitol for Legislative Summit

Register now to attend the Oklahoma Press Association's annual Legislative Summit on Thursday, Feb. 8, for an opportunity to meet with your legislators at the Oklahoma State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

The summit begins with a group meeting in the Blue Room on the second floor at 9:30 a.m. where OPA Executive Vice President Mark Thomas will provide a quick briefing before everyone breaks to visit legislators in their offices.

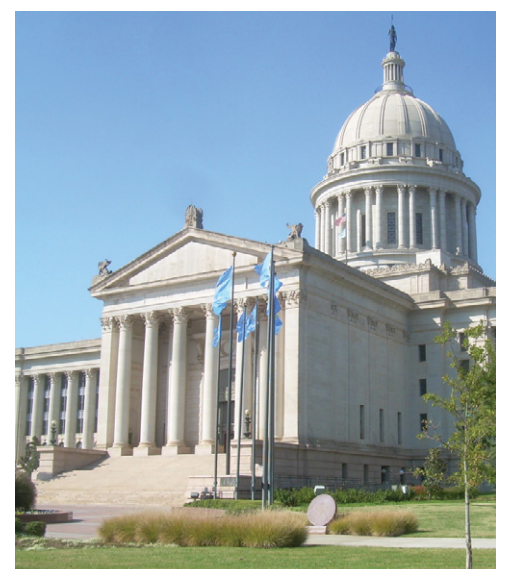
Following lunch, Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin will speak to OPA members.

The summit offers publishers, editors and other newspaper staff members a chance to ask their local legislators to support decisions affecting the newspaper industry.

Legislators rank a personal visit with their constituents as the most effective contact. They listen to people who make time to come to the capitol and express their concerns.

Newspapers have several important legislative principles to support and defend, including First Amendment issues, Freedom of Information issues, and business issues affecting newspapers, such as public notice, and taxation of advertising and circulation.

Plan on attending the Feb. 8 Legislative Summit and make sure your voice is heard. Registration is free and includes lunch. To register, go to [www.OkPress.com/legislative-summit](http://www.OkPress.com/legislative-summit).





## Changes to OPA contest offer more awards and digital entry

I spent a good portion of last weekend going through our archives to pick out entries for the OPA Better Newspaper Contest.

And, for the first time, I was not ruffling through stacks of old papers to get the entries. That's because most of this year's contest categories have digital entries. Three still require us to mail entire copies of the paper, but it's exciting that the bulk of them will be of the click-and-upload variety. Makes me a happier camper.

It is exciting, too, because, for the first time, this year's contest will recognize individuals for their work, as well as the newspapers.

There will be 20 contest categories, with results from eight of them counting toward the Sequoyah Award. Those are: News Content; Layout & Design; Advertising; Editorial Writing; Photography; Sports Coverage; Sales Promotion; and Community Leadership. Newspapers may also enter the digital media contest, but the results will not count toward the Sequoyah Award.

There are 11 contest categories that recognize individual work. Those are: News Story; Feature Story; Sports

Story; In-Depth Reporting; Column Writing; Small Space Ad; Large Space Ad; News Photograph; Feature Photograph; Sports Photograph; and Front-Page Design.

All the information about the new categories and how to enter can be found on the press association website at [www.okpress.com/contest](http://www.okpress.com/contest).

If your newspaper is among the 60 percent of OPA member papers that usually don't enter the contest, I hope you'll do it this year. It is a good chance to see how your paper stacks up against its peers and it's a great way to get recognition for you and your employees.

It's cheap – \$10 per entry. Even if you don't enter all the Sequoyah Award categories, pick a couple of categories where you think you do well.

Even though I am sure that you – like me – enjoy winning stuff, the purpose of the Better Newspaper Contest is to help us all learn and get better at what we do.

And, by all means, spring for your staffers to enter their best work, as well. They'll appreciate it and you might find yourself hanging their hardware up on the wall at your paper.

## OPEA asks for investigation of state tourism department

An investigation is being sought against the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department over allegations that it broke laws regulating employment practices, taxpayer funds and open records and meetings.

The Oklahoma Public Employees Association sent a written request for the investigation to Oklahoma State Attorney General Mike Hunter, Oklahoma District Attorney David Prater and the House Special Investigation Committee.

"Oklahomans deserve to know if the agency disregarded merit protection commission and district court orders pertaining to the treatment of tourism employees," said OPEA Executive Director Sterling Zearley.

"OPEA also has concerns about agency open records violations, the handling of a state auditor and inspector's report and a federal Department of Labor investigation."

## AG says sheriff's association subject to open records law

An attorney general opinion says a private organization of county sheriffs must make its meetings and certain records open to the public.

Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter said the Oklahoma Sheriff's Association is subject to state openness laws because it is "supported in whole or in part by public funds."

State Rep. Bobby Cleveland, R-Slaughterville, asked for the opinion after hearing concerns about the association from journalists, *The Oklahoman* reported.

OSA must comply with the Open Meeting Act when a majority of its members meet to conduct OSA business, the

opinion states. It is also subject to the Open Records Act, but only for records involving "the transaction of public business, the expenditure of public funds or the administering of public property."

The opinion is based on the association's paid administrative role in the Oklahoma Temporary Motorist Liability Plan, which allows police to seize a driver's license plate if the driver doesn't have proof of insurance. To get the license plate back, the driver must pay a \$125 fee, with \$10 from each fee going to the Oklahoma Sheriff's Association for administering the plan.

### OPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### OPA LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT THURSDAY, FEB. 8, 2018

9:30 AM to 1:30 PM – FREE but please register in advance

All OPA members are encouraged to meet at the State Capitol on Feb. 8. We'll have a short group meeting in the Blue Room on the 2nd floor, across from the Governor's office and behind the Governor's conference room. Lunch will be provided by OPA in the 1st floor rotunda. Gov. Mary Fallin will speak to attendees at 1 p.m.

#### OPA BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST ENTRY DEADLINE MONDAY, FEB. 12, 2018

There are lots of changes in the 2017 OPA Better Newspaper Contest. Most entries will be judged online as full-page digital tearsheets in PDF format. To submit contest entries, go to <https://betternewspapercontest.com/OPA>. Entry materials that must be mailed (Categories 1, 2 and 3) must also be postmarked by the February 12 deadline. This year, 20 categories offer an opportunity for newspapers and staff members to be honored. Visit [OKPress.com/Contest](http://OKPress.com/Contest) for more information.

#### WEBINAR: DESIGNING SPECIAL SECTIONS THURSDAY, FEB. 15, 2018

10 AM to 10:45 AM – COST: \$39

Join Ed Henninger as he teaches newspapers how to design special sections that will make money and draw readers. Capitalize on your sections by learning tips to create more interest and advertising revenue. To register, visit [newspaperacademy.com](http://newspaperacademy.com).

#### WEBINAR: VIDEO STRATEGIES THURSDAY, FEB. 15, 2018

1 PM to 2 PM – COST: \$35

Video offers your audience a front row seat to history, a chance to feel as if they are intimately connected and an opportunity to deeply understand an issue. This session will help you decide what video strategies to adopt, what technology to use and how your entire staff can contribute video stories. To register, visit [onlinemediacampus.com](http://onlinemediacampus.com).

#### 2018 OPA ANNUAL CONVENTION FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 15-16, 2018

It's never too early to start planning. Mark your calendars to join us for OPA's Annual Convention at the Grand Casino Hotel Resort in Shawnee, Okla.

For more information on upcoming events, visit the OPA website at [www.OkPress.com](http://www.OkPress.com) or contact Membership & Meetings Director Christine Frank at (405) 499-0040, 1-888-815-2672 or email [CFrank@okpress.com](mailto:CFrank@okpress.com).

## New owners, press days at Elk City News

The Elk City News has new owners after eight decades under direction of the Wade family.

Scott Wesner and Scott Wood, along with new publisher Josh Umholtz, became the new owners on Dec. 1.

"We are so excited to be a part of a long tradition at The Elk City News," said Wesner. "Having grown up in Cordell, it's great to be back home working in the same area we know best."

Wesner and Woods both graduated from Cordell High School.

Wesner now lives in Austin, Texas, and has been in the newspaper business for 22 years. He is the father of two children, Hanna, 16, and William, 14.

Wood began his newspaper career in 1997 in West Texas. In 2003, he moved to Muenster, Texas, and acquired three newspapers. Wood and his wife, Deborah, have two children, Emma, 18 and Sarah, 9.

In addition to the newspapers they own individually, Wesner and Woods co-own additional papers in Dalhart, Texas; Coleman, Texas; Independence, Kansas; Coffeyville, Kansas; and Gothenburg, Nebraska.

Wesner said their main focus is "producing an excellent newspaper."

"We're looking forward to continuing the great tradition of community journalism," he said.

Umholtz said some changes are being made to ensure the health and success of the newspaper.

The first change was becoming a two-edition per week newspaper, which began on Jan. 12.

With two publications per week, The Elk City News will become more robust, hyper-local and timely, Umholtz said.

A new advertising team is in place at the newspaper to serve clients. Courtney Faylor was recently named advertising manager while Nancy Hylton returned to work part-time.

Faylor has been working at the newspaper since July. Hylton is returning to The Elk City News for the fourth time. Both ladies are longtime area residents. Faylor and her family are moving to Canute, and Hylton has been an Elk City resident for many years.

## Brown family sells Stroud American to publisher of Tri-County Herald

The Stroud American is under new ownership.

Blansett Media Incorporated, which owns the Tri-County Herald in Meeker, purchased the weekly newspaper last month from Mike and Alicia Brown.

"We are very pleased to pass the Stroud American torch to a great team who will bring fresh ideas, new energy and creativity to the forefront," said Mike Brown.

The Brown family had owned the American since 1973. Mike and Alicia Brown have been its owners and publishers since 1997.

The Browns said they have no plans to leave the Stroud community but will be pursuing other opportunities.

"The two and a half years that we have

published the Herald has reinforced for me the importance of community newspapers," said Brian Blansett, publisher of the Herald and now the American.

"The Brown family has a tremendous legacy in Stroud. I'm grateful they trusted our team enough to make this opportunity possible."

Blansett, a veteran of the newspaper industry, currently serves as president of the Oklahoma Press Association.

Nicole Smith, who was an intern, employee and stringer for the Herald, is the news editor of the American and is working in the Stroud office. Salonne Carter, a Stroud native and veteran newspaper sales executive, will work part-time as a sales executive.

## Chisolm Trails LLC takes ownership of Yukon Review and Mustang News

Chisolm Trails LLC is the new owner of the Yukon Review and Mustang News.

Yukon businessman Scott Myrick, Oklahoma City attorney Russell Mulinix and newspaper publisher John Settle are involved in the new company.

Chisolm Trails acquired the properties from Star Communications, which has owned the Yukon Review since July 1, 2015, and the Mustang News since Feb. 1, 2016.

"This agreement will not change the normal operations of the paper or its staff," Settle said. "It will position the papers to be able to continue to grow with the communities."

Myrick is the developer of the proposed Thunder Falls indoor water park near Yukon.

Mulinix is a Norman attorney and a longtime friend of Review publisher John Settle.

"I am very excited about the addition

of Scott and Rusty," said Settle. "Their vision and commitment to the future of Yukon and Mustang has ensured the two newspapers will be serving these communities far into the future."

Myrick said he is excited about the new venture. He plans to be involved with the newspaper, but said that Settle will continue to oversee the day-to-day operations.

Mulinix, who also owns a Keller Williams franchise real estate agency in the Norman area, said community newspapers are the internal fiber of the community.

Community newspapers, he said, are where readers find out what's going on in their towns, whether it's city council meetings or sports coverage.

The Yukon Review was founded in 1963 and is a successor to the Yukon Sun, which was established before 1900.

The Mustang News was founded in 1982.

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## The Oklahoma Publisher



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## New assistant editor joins Trail Miller Co., LLC staff

Trail Miller Co., LLC welcomes Hayley Grimes as the new assistant editor for The Okeene Record and The Canton Times. She will cover local news as well as help editor Lia Hillman with the newspaper production.

"There's a lot that goes into producing a newspaper each week that people don't always see," Hillman said. "I'm

excited for Hayley to learn all different aspects of this company."

Prior to joining the staff at the Record and Times, Grimes worked as a courier delivering newspapers for The Houston Chronicle. She is originally from Lake Jackson, Texas, and graduated from Texas A&M University in 2015 with a degree in agricultural communications and journalism.

## Cushing Citizen transitions to weekly

The Cushing Citizen has transitioned to a once weekly print edition on Wednesday with a free electronic edition on Friday.

The change was effective Jan. 1, 2018, said David Reid, publisher of the Citizen.

"The staff is quite excited about this change," Reid said. "The wide-open canvas of the Weekend electronic edition is fascinating to our team.

"We've got a pretty young staff and they are embracing this electronic product better than I am. I have to admit, their enthusiasm is catching - even with me."

The Wednesday Citizen remains the same subscription price, but the newsstand price increased to 75 cents.

Advertising packages for the electronic issue are being offered as a three-month, six-month or weekly one-year agreement, said Reid.

"I think this Saturday electronic is going to far exceed the revenues of the previous Saturday print issues and at a fraction of the production cost," said Reid. "We're confident this is a positive move both for the company and for the community."

## McAlester News-Capital plans candidate forum for community

The McAlester News-Capital partnered with Ignite McAlester on a forum regarding school board candidates and sales tax proposals on the upcoming Feb. 13 election ballot.

"It's our responsibility to present these forums to our community," said News-Capital Publisher Amy Johns. "We want people to be able to make wise decisions when they go to the polls."

Johns said candidates will be given opportunities for opening and closing statements, and will be asked questions presented by a panel from the News-Capital.

Representatives from the City of McAlester were invited to speak regarding the sales tax proposals.

Ignite McAlester is a young professionals network.

## The Oklahoman launches magazine

The Oklahoman recently introduced its all-new lifestyle magazine that celebrates everything Oklahoma.

"The OK" (like the tree) is a quarterly magazine that will cover people and places, food and fashion, travel and technology, and more.

It will also bring stories told in the unique voices of The Oklahoman's reporters ranging from long-form narratives to in-depth reports as well as personal columns and tales.

The OK is a premium product for subscribers who can get it at a discounted price as well as opt out if they're not interested. The magazine is also available at premium outlets as well as online for \$5.99.



The inaugural edition, The Year in Pictures, highlights the work of the award-winning photography staff, headed up by veteran Doug Hoke.

Phil O'Connor is editor of The OK; Todd Pendleton is the creative director.

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Successful projects often include devising new strategies to take advantage of an opportunity or solve a problem, building new tools for news organizations, transforming an idea into a market-tested prototype or advancing a prototype so it's ready for investment or a full product launch.

Whatever your idea, its benefits should extend to other news organizations and the people who depend on them. To apply, please clearly describe your experience, relevant connections and expected outcomes during and immediately following your fellowship year.

There are three types of RJI Fellowships: residential, nonresidential and institutional.

• **RESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIPS** are designed for persons, inside and outside media industries, who want to collaborate with RJI in the pursuit of solutions to a particular journalism problem.

Residential fellows spend eight months on the University of Missouri



campus, receive an \$80,000 stipend and a \$10,000 one-time housing or relocation allowance.

Solutions – in the form of strategies, products or services – developed from these ideas would be shared with many news and news-related organizations. You must reside in Columbia, Missouri, for the duration of this fellowship.

• **NONRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIPS** are designed for entrepreneurial individuals with a strong interest in journalism and issues related to digital communications.

Your fellowship can be about something you are interested in pursuing on your own or something that could benefit a current employer. Successful ideas, products or strategies should serve as a model for the news industry or help the industry get smarter, faster and nimbler.

You do not need to live in Columbia but you will need to make occasional visits to consult with RJI leadership and staff.

Nonresidential fellows receive a

\$20,000 stipend, plus research and travel support.

• **INSTITUTIONAL FELLOWSHIPS** are designed to unlock some of the thoughtful, meaningful ideas inside newsrooms, ad departments, boardrooms and break rooms that for various reasons can't get any traction.

RJI will collaborate with a leader at a company or institution who will identify an employee who can develop an idea or lead a team that could do it. The employee will be named an RJI Fellow but will continue working at his or her job. The institutional fellowship stipend – \$20,000 – is paid to the company or organization and can be used for salary relief or for another purpose to best ensure the success of the fellowship project.

RJI Fellowships are open to U.S. citizens and news organizations as well as international news outlets. RJI also welcomes proposals from international journalists who plan to partner with U.S.-based news, technology and civil society organizations.

The deadline to apply is midnight CST on Jan. 31, 2018.

For more information or to apply, go to <https://www.rjionline.org/stories/apply-now-for-2018-2019-rji-fellowship>.

# THANK YOU



to the following individuals and organizations for their recent donations to the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation:

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Betty Boyd

A donation to the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation will support its efforts to improve the state's newspaper industry and quality of journalism.

ONF's programs include training and education for professional journalists, scholarship and internship programs for journalism students, and Newspaper in Education efforts.

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## DEATHS

**DAVID ALTMAN**, a longtime Oklahoma journalist, died Dec. 8, 2017. He was 71.

Altman was born Aug. 29, 1946, in Seminole and later moved to Wewoka with his family. He graduated from Wewoka High School in 1964, attended the University of Oklahoma and graduated from East Central State College in 1969.

After his honorable discharge from the Army in 1972, Altman joined the Wewoka Daily Times as ad manager. A year later he joined the Wewoka Fire

Department as a firefighter/emergency medical technician and spent his days off helping start The Wewoka Sun, a weekly newspaper.

In 1979, Altman moved to Clinton where he helped start The Custer County Leader as a reporter before becoming editor then general manager. In 1984, he went to the Blackwell Journal-Tribune to serve as sports editor. Later that year, he began working at the Fairview Republican where he was promoted to editor in 1985. His career also brought him to

the Nowata Star as editor before returning to the Fairview Republican. In 2001, he left the Fairview Republican to start an e-mail newsletter, Fairview E-News. While still publishing E-News, Altman also joined the staff of the Enid News & Eagle as copy editor. He retired from the newspaper in 2008.

Altman is survived by his son Gregory Michael Altman and wife Tina of Corpus Christi, Texas; daughter Melissa Dawn Altman of Oklahoma City; and two siblings.

**NORA KATHRYN FROESCHLE**, former reporter for the Tulsa World, died Dec. 21, 2017. She was 49.

Froeschle was born June 19, 1968, in Minneapolis, Minn. She worked as a

liaison for veterans at Veterans Affairs in Washington D.C. before serving 10 years as a reporter for the Tulsa World. She later began a career as an English

teacher at Union High School and Sand Springs' Clyde Boyd Middle School.

Froeschle is survived by her two sons Jared Cole Froeschle and Christopher Robin Silberstein.

## In Memory of Our Friends & Colleagues

John Yates  
Dec. 10, 2016

David Lee Avery  
Dec. 15, 2016

Ronald Michael 'Ron' Smith  
Dec. 30, 2016

Mary Louise Frick  
Jan. 11, 2017

Helen Barrett  
Jan. 20, 2017

James R. 'Jim' Bellatti  
Dec. 13, 2016

Laura Yvonne Holmes  
Dec. 19, 2016

Bobby V. Hughes  
Jan. 6, 2017

David Allen Trammell  
Jan. 16, 2017

Herman Brown  
Jan. 20, 2017

**THE OGE<sup>®</sup> PHOTO CONTEST**



Dale junior Lacey Savage gets the heroine's welcome after scoring the winning basket at the buzzer against Latta.

Photo by RICK HESTER, Tri-County Herald, Nov. 17, 2017

NOVEMBER 2017  
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**RICK  
HESTER**  
*Tri-County Herald*

NOVEMBER 2017  
DAILY WINNER:

**JASON  
ELMQUIST**  
*Stillwater News Press*



Oklahoma State senior quarterback Mason Rudolph dives over the pile into the end zone for a touchdown against Kansas. It was his 45th touchdown of the year, moving him ahead of Barry Sanders for the program record of touchdowns in a season.

Photo by JASON ELMQUIST, Stillwater News Press, Nov. 26, 2017

*The November 2017 contest was judged by a member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.*

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# Journalists pay high price to report truth



Norman Transcript reporter Joy Hampton takes a selfie outside of a mountaintop café near Islamabad, Pakistan. Hampton was one of a delegation of 10 journalist who traveled to Pakistan in December as part of a media exchange through the University of Oklahoma courtesy of a grant from the U.S. Department of State.

## BY JOY HAMPTON

Senior Staff Writer for The Norman Transcript (Reprinted with permission)

**C**alls to prayer, mountain vistas, verdant valleys and aromatic curries are just a few of the sensory memories I have of trips I've made to Pakistan and Bangladesh. The trips were media exchanges made possible by U.S. State Department grants and a University of Oklahoma program to foster friendly relations with journalists in emerging nations.

When Sheikh Rokan, an environmental journalist from Dhaka, Bangladesh, spent time shadowing me and working at The Transcript back in 2013, little did I know I would be invited to visit his nation in return as part of the media exchange.

That January 2014 trip to Bangladesh was a life-changing experience. I learned how much we have in common with journalists around the globe, but I also learned how challenging some of their struggles are.

One of my strongest memories in Bangladesh was a visit to a newsroom where journalists described escaping from their previous offices in a burning building where many of their fellows perished.

While Dhaka, with a population approaching 20 million, has building and fire codes, they are seldom enforced, the people there told me.

Recently, I returned to the Indian subcontinent of South Asia again with an Oklahoma media delegation, this time to meet with journalists in Pakistan.

I had met with some of them previously during their visits to Norman and was privileged to be able to tell the story of one vibrant young female reporter, Shaista Hakim, who courageously bucked stereotypes to report from the Swat valley region, an area particularly dangerous for reporters.

Hakim was the first female journalist in Swat and has been recognized with awards for her work.

On this trip, I met her fiancé, who is also a journalist, during a visit to the National Press Club in Islamabad, Pakistan. During the visit, I saw a monument built in tribute to journalists who lost their lives on the job.

Every year, journalists in Bangladesh and Pakistan face grave dangers, being shot in the crossfire during dangerous assignments or murdered because they are doing their jobs. It's a danger unprecedented where I work in Norman, where the greatest censure I usually face is criticism via social media.

Standing in front of that monument with reporters

who face danger daily and do their jobs anyway was a sobering moment and one which prompted deep reflection.

Would I have the courage to report the truth when and where it mattered most, even if it put my life in danger?

Hopefully, I will never know the answer to that question, but asking the question gave me new respect for those who dare to report the news in turbulent nations. The dangers they face, along with the need and desire for better training and higher professionalism is why programs like the one sponsored through OU exist.

Since 1992, 21 journalists working in Bangladesh are confirmed to have been killed as a result of their jobs, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, a watchdog organization that tracks journalist deaths. Of those, two died as a result of dangerous assignments. The rest were murdered.

In Pakistan, 60 journalists have been killed since 1992, according to the CPJ, while seven American journalists were killed in the same time frame.

The danger disparity becomes even more remarkable when you consider that the estimated population of the United States is 323.1 million compared to 163 million for Bangladesh and 193.2 million in Pakistan.

For the second year in a row, the number of journalists jailed worldwide has hit a high, with the lion's share of those behind bars being in Turkey, China and Egypt, according to the CPJ.

In recent years, Syria has been the most dangerous place to be a journalist, though that number has

declined as the number of journalists in Syria has declined, CPJ reports.

Pakistan is a beautiful country full of people who were hospitable and welcoming. If there was a primary message they wanted to convey to Americans, it is that most Pakistanis are not terrorists.

They are mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, husbands, fathers and sons. They are a people connected by deep family and community bonds who want to live in peace and safety, but there are portions of their nation caught up in turmoil and conflict where simply reporting the truth is often seen as taking sides, putting journalists in danger from extremist factions and sometimes imprisonment by governments who reportedly support freedom of the press.

In the United States, we are threatened with lack of access, not the loss of our lives, but perhaps there is a lesson here.

When President Obama visited Moore following the 2013 tornado, I was privileged to join the press corps that followed him from Washington, D.C.

Sitting in the van with reporters from major publications like The Washington Post, The New York Times and Reuters, I was shocked when they told me that each presidential administration locks them out more than the last, that the news released from our nation's capital is very controlled, that local newspaper reporters with our boots on the ground are the only real sources for getting at the truth in this day and age.

What am I willing to sacrifice to get at the truth? Time to ponder some more.



Former University of Oklahoma journalism dean Joe Foote (center) poses for a photo with journalist Riaz Gul and Gul's family at the press club in Islamabad, Pakistan. (Photo by Joy Hampton/The Norman Transcript)

# Tips from the past for your writing resolutions



**Clark's Critique**  
by Terry M. Clark  
Journalist  
tmclark44@gmail.com  
@okieprof

What are your New Year resolutions for your newspaper? What are you going to focus on?

Survival, obviously. Bottom line is more than just advertising. It still means attracting readers, more difficult than ever these days.

So, what stories are you going to tell this year? How are you going to tell them? It's still about writing, effective writing – always will be.

Here are some tips from the past to be your resolutions for writing this year.

From "A Few Pointers," in a hard-bound 51-page 1936 Copy Desk and Reporters' Manual for *The Daily Oklahoman* and *Oklahoma City Times*:

"Never let the lead paragraph run more than 50 words. Ten or 20 words are preferred.

"*The Oklahoman* and *Times* are read in homes where the average education is not above high school grades. Thus, the copy should be written in simple language.

"Try to answer in each story all questions the incident is likely to arouse in the reader's mind. Tell who, what, where, when, why and how. Don't leave a big question mark sticking out of the printed page to pique the reader's curiosity.

"Never fail to include all names that have relation to the incident. Names are news. Get both sides. One side is only half a story. Be fair.

"Handle every story as though the principals were personal friends of yours.

"Avoid formula leads. Snap it up by getting action in the first line and clean up the story in the lead in the shortest possible space. Get the feature angle. Color, spice and human interest are to be sought eagerly."

Or, the first item from a much earlier style guide of the *Kansas City Star*, on one legal size piece of paper, three columns, in six-point type:

"Use short sentences. Use short first paragraphs. Use vigorous English. Be positive. Not negative."

Oh, a young reporter got his start there, following this advice. His name was Ernest Hemingway.

Oh, my resolution for this column. Take my own advice, write shorter, show more.

**LOOKING'EM OVER.** I think most Christmas and end-of-year coverage in newspapers is boring, front pages covered with big Christmas posters or text-heavy

**Creek Nation to hold inauguration Saturday**  
Inauguration ceremonies for the Shawnee Creek Nation will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at the Shawnee National Amphitheater on the Shawnee Reservation in Oklahoma.

**WINTER WOES**  
Water line breaks keep public works crews busy

**County OSU Extension acquires new educator**  
Leslie Lewis excited to bring new programs

**The Color of Unity**  
Plans finalized for MLK Jr. programs, banquet

**Principal chief receives honor from OK Mag**

**Best Cotton Crop in Decades**  
High Cotton

**Minco-Union City Times Food Drive Comes to an End**

**Butcher's Block: A Cut Above**

**Santa's Helpers Keeping Busy at CV Tech This Holiday Season**

**FAIR WARNING**  
Tuttle ENDUI Checkpoint Planned for December 29

**final chance!**  
\$1 DOWN only \$10 A MONTH  
OFFER ENDS ON JANUARY 10  
join in the club or at planetfitness.com

**THE SHAWNEE NEWS-STAR**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

**SHAWNEE AREA MANHUNT**  
Suspect hides in river, gets hypothermia

**CHRISTMAS**  
Shawnee icon still burns bright

**Tax bill heads for passage in GOP senators' fall in line**

**THE MILL**  
A year before state bond in 1908

**LOTTERIES**  
Mega Millions, Powerball, etc.

recaps of the past year. Some do use photos to help out, but little is used to really grab readers. (I know, it's called fill the paper up easily so we can have a little time off.)

Exceptions. *The Hooker Advance*. Sheila Blankenship uses an attention getter and writes about it, with photos. Her lead:

"This past year seemed to have been 12 months of extremes locally as the brand new state-of-the-art wind turbine erected by BarberWind collapsed unexpectedly this summer even as the 88-year-old Adams elevator still defies gravity as it sways with the wind but remains upright."

• *Tulsa World's* photo editor John Clanton (bragging here on former student and UCO grad), writes about the photos of the year, with three pages of top photos, headlined, "Worth a thousand words."

• *Claremore Daily Progress*, Tom Fink interviews city leaders about their resolutions.

• *The Mooreland Leader*, Christmas edition, front page photos and poems of sixth graders.

• *The Canton Times*, historian Max Nichols writing, "One for the Oklahoma History Book."

Newspapers doing what they're supposed to:

• *The Oklahoman* – Matt Peterson on disabled people's problems at Will Rogers Airport, "Curbside Conundrum."

• *The Oklahoma Eagle* – Margaret Hicks, on nursing home problems,

Featured this month are the Okmulgee Times, Minco-Union City Times, The Shawnee News-Star, The Konawa Leader, The Canton Times, The Mooreland Leader, The Hooker Advance, The Oklahoma Eagle and The Oklahoman.

"Cherokee Meadows: Things Go Boom In The Night"

• *Tulsa World* – Ginnie Graham, putting faces on a shelter for special needs children scheduled for closing, "Kids in Crisis."

Congratulations:

• Cheryl Overstreet, named editor as she starts her 24th year at *The Elk City News*.

• Sharp new design at the *Durant Democrat* and *Altus Times*.

• *Tonkawa News* celebrates 124th year.

Story ideas you can localize:

• *The Shawnee News-Star*, Vicky O. Misa, on a local holiday icon. What are the icons and landmarks in your area?

• *Beckham County Record*, Shonda Little, "Opioid crisis reaches western Oklahoma."

• *The Konawa Leader*, Josh Allen, national survey shows religious "nones" growing – interview more than pastors.

## HEAD'EM UP AWARDS.

First place, tie, *The Oklahoman*, on Nate Billings' photo of Baker Mayfield walking off field after Rose Bowl loss:

### WILTED ROSE

*The Black Chronicle*, on John W. Simms story about a family suing over

another death in the Oklahoma County jail:

### WHY THE KILLINGS?!

Second place, *Claremore Daily Progress*, on Cydney Baron story about a rezoning request:

### BETWEEN A ROAD AND A HARD PLACE

Third place, *Guymon Daily Herald* on Carol Perea story about police beards/fund raising effort:

### GUYMON POLICE ARREST SHAVING

Her lead: "...you will not be arrested for shaving, but local officers jailed their razors for a good cause."

Honorable mentions: *Guthrie News Leader*, "Christmas delivery: 211 pairs of shoes," Mike Monahan about donations to Coyle elementary students; *Minco-Union City Times*, "Butcher's Block: A Cut Above," Jayson Knight story about a store; *The Ardmoreite*, "Good Clean Fun," Rhiannon Saegert story about a school anti-litter poster contest; *Okmulgee Times*, "Winter Woes," Kaitlyn Dillard photo of cold weather impact; *The Lawton Constitution*, "Students take their best aim," Grace Leonhart about an archery competition; *The Norman Transcript*, "Cash, Candidates and Cannabis," Adam Troxtell on the legislative future.

Front Pages of Clark's Critique Continued from Page 8



**The Konawa Leader**  
On the Shore of Oklahoma's 1st Lake  
Volume 115 Number 51 BEMOLE COUNTY OKLAHOMA 74845-0757 (505) 937-8000 Thursday, January 4, 2018 7 Pages & Supplements

**Seats Open on County Fair Board, Filing Period Begins Jan. 8**

**Throwback Thursday**

**Survey Shows Religious 'Nones' Growing in Population**

**Motions Filed Seeking Utility Rate Reduction**

**Konawa Invitational Starts Today**

**Banned From The Banking Industry For Life, Scott Pruitt Friend Finds New Home at EPA**



**The Hooker Advance**  
Thursday, January 4, 2018  
Volume 115 Number 51 BEMOLE COUNTY OKLAHOMA 74845-0757 (505) 937-8000 Thursday, January 4, 2018 7 Pages & Supplements

**2017 headlines recall contrasting news of the past 12 months**  
**The newest wind turbine collapses but the Adams elevator still stands**

**Caught 'cha!**

**Happiness is remembering the best of 2017!**

**December 2017 Local Weather**

**Assessment clinics slated**

**County burn bans**

**Firefighters sell tickets on three guns**

**Hellos**

# First female city editor at Tulsa World retires



Tulsa World Sunday Editor Debbie Jackson, at her desk in the World newsroom. Photo by Jessie Wardarski/Tulsa World. Reprinted with permission.

Debbie Jackson, Tulsa World Sunday editor, is retiring after 46 years in the newspaper business.

Jackson first worked at the Henryetta Daily Free-Lance for J. Leland Gourley, an Oklahoma journalism legend. When Gourley put the Free-Lance up for sale in 1973, Jackson was offered a job at the Daily Oklahoman, but Gourley encouraged her to apply at the Oklahoma Journal.

The Journal offered her \$25 a week more than The Oklahoman and the deal was sealed.

At the Journal, Jackson honed her skills in editing and page design. It's been a major part of her career ever since.

Susan Ellerbach, the World's executive editor, said "Jackson is the type of journalist we all aspire to be."

"Her standards have always been high," Ellerbach said. "We've worked together for 30 years, and this news-

room won't be the same without her knowledge and support."

Jackson joined the staff at the Tulsa World in 1979 as a copy editor and soon became an assistant city editor. In 1985, she was named as the first woman to serve as the World's city editor, a job she loved.

"It's the best job in the newspaper," she said. "Every day you walk in the door it's a clean sheet. You don't know what's going to happen."

She left that position after 10 years to become Sunday editor, overseeing the World's Sunday edition as well as several special projects.

In 2014, she began a popular weekly feature called "Throwback Tulsa," revisiting often forgotten aspects of Tulsa's past.

Jackson was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2009.



**The Canton Times**  
Thursday, January 4, 2018  
Volume 107, No. 1 \$1.00

**CANTON LAKE FREEZES OVER**

**Cities receive \$159 Million**

**One for the Oklahoma History Book**

**Canton competes on Thunder court**



**The Oklahoma Eagle**  
Thursday, December 14, 2017  
Volume 115 Number 51 BEMOLE COUNTY OKLAHOMA 74845-0757 (505) 937-8000 Thursday, December 14, 2017 7 Pages & Supplements

**Cherokee Meadows, Things Go Boom in The Night**

**Tulsa Rev. Glenna J. Huber Installed As Rector For The Church of The Epiphany in Washington, D.C.**

**The Cinderella Experience RESTORING CONFIDENCE**



**The Oklahoman**  
Thursday, January 4, 2018  
Volume 115 Number 51 BEMOLE COUNTY OKLAHOMA 74845-0757 (505) 937-8000 Thursday, January 4, 2018 7 Pages & Supplements

**I-235 to close for three days**

**OU wins Bedlam**

**Fashion a la mode**



**The Mooreland Leader**  
Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017  
Volume 115 Number 51 BEMOLE COUNTY OKLAHOMA 74845-0757 (505) 937-8000 Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017 7 Pages & Supplements

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Christmas Time... Sixth Graders' Poems**

**Students move on, but jobs scarce for St. Gregory's faculty**



**CURBSIDE CONUNDRUM**  
For some disabled travelers, getting around OKC's Will Rogers World Airport can be a problem

**Students move on, but jobs scarce for St. Gregory's faculty**



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# Protect your computers from ransomware attacks



## Computer Notes

from the road  
by Wilma (Melot) Newby  
wnewby@okpress.com

Another newspaper has fallen victim to the ransomware virus.

One of the worst case scenarios I can imagine is waking up on a Monday morning, going to the office and discovering your equipment has been infected by a virus.

All your files are locked up on several computers in the office, as well as all the files on the server.

As you dig around the office for some old files on a flash or backup drive, you start worrying about how you will get the paper out this week and where you will find copies of your current ads.

Then comes the anger. You thought you were safe but realize that isn't the case. It's a hard pill to swallow.

And it all started with ransomware named Paradise.

That's an ugly Monday morning, folks. So before it happens to you, let's look over this checklist to see if you're really safe.

- Do all computers in the office have full antivirus that includes ransomware protection?

- Do all off-site computers have the same protection?

- Are your firewalls on? Look at each computer and see if the firewall is active. I know this can be a hassle, but it prevents unauthorized applications, programs and services from getting incoming connections on the computer.

- Does your antivirus have plug-ins for all the browsers on the computer? These plug-ins stop hackers from hopping directly onto your computer from a misguided click on some link.

- Consider a hardware firewall that filters requests before they are allowed in your network. These can be set up by your internet provider, who may also provide the box. This could be a good solution if several people are logging in remotely. The cost starts at around \$300.

- VPN routers also are available. They create a virtual private network for your office, and are easier to set up

and emulate hardware firewalls in many ways. Cisco makes one starting at \$160.

- If the router you have is a newer one, just log into it and make sure the firmware is up-to-date. The firmware updates rules for what comes and goes through the router.

- To ensure the firewall is working on a Mac computer, go to **System Preferences > Security**, then look for the firewall button. In order to activate it, click the lock on the bottom left corner of the box and put in the computer's password.

- On Windows computers look in **Control Panel > Windows Firewall**. In some cases it will say that the settings are being managed by another vendor's application. That means that the antivirus running on the computer has taken over the job of putting up a firewall. Look at the antivirus setting to see the firewall there.



As an employee, these setting are your best defense against losing your computer's files.

- Turn on **Show File Extensions** on both Macs and PCs. From the desktop on a Mac, go to **Finder > Preferences > Advanced**. Check **Show All File Name Extensions**. This makes it easier to spot suspicious files. If it says something like (.PDF.EXE) you will see the (.exe) extension and know not to click on it.

For Windows XP and 7, open Windows Explorer. You can do this by clicking **My Computer** from the **Start Menu**. Click the **Tools** menu on the menu bar in Explorer, then click the **Folder Options** item in the popup menu that appears. When the dialogue A dialog box appears, click the **View** tab at the top of the window.

- Look for **Hide file extensions for known file types** and uncheck the box to disable it. Click **Apply to all folders**, then click **Apply** and then **OK**.

Windows 10 is a little different. Instead of "My computer" it's called "This PC". Go to **View menu** and check

**File names and Extensions**. Now all the extensions will show on the desktop and everywhere else.

Your best defense is a good backup system. If there is a server in the building back it up with not one but **two external hard drives** – one always off site. Switch them back and forth each week. Use the server's software to do the backup.

For backup, use drives that have their own power supply with USB3 or Thunderbolt connections. The larger drives seem to last longer. One that I recommend is the G-Technology G-Drive USB 3.0 2TB External Hard Drive. It's available on Amazon for \$139.95.

Use a file service like Google Drive or One Drive to back up your files. However, even these can be hit by ransomware if the computer is logged into the drive while the attack on the computer is happening. The two drive backup system seems to be the safest. At least you've only lost a week's worth of work if things go south.

If the paper is under attack and you notice it, unplug the network until the virus is cleaned from the computers. Reformatting the drives is best but not always possible due to software issues.

At the very least, back up some of the more important files for future recovery. Clearly label the drive so it doesn't get plugged in and used by some unsuspecting employee, requiring you to start the whole process over.

Many times, you will be asked to pay a fee to recover your files. I don't believe in paying these people one red dime. They are the worst kind of attackers. Report it as a crime to the FBI, which is always working on this type of problem.

Don't think it can never happen to you. It's happened to lots of people and the hackers get better every day.

### WHERE'S THAT IN GIMP?

Many papers are using Gimp software to correct photos for the newspaper. New employees who have been trained in Photoshop may have trouble finding settings in Gimp.

Let's look at a simple comparison of menus in Photoshop and Gimp. For this comparison, we will be cutting out an object from one photo to place into another one. This is frequently done in advertising to add a person who was missing from the photo.

Start with the photo that has the person you want to cut out. We'll leave color correction for later. It helps to have both photos open at the same time. I prefer working with a copy of the photo so if something messes up, I can go back to the original and start over.

Make sure both images you're working on have the same resolution. This is found at **Image > Image size** in Photoshop and **Image > Scale Image** in Gimp.

In Photoshop, get the section tool of your choice – Lasso or Polygonal Lasso. Make sure the tool is feathered 3 to 5 pixels. Cut out the person remembering that some cleanup can be done in the other file when the object is on its own layer.

In Gimp, use the Free Select tool. It looks like a lasso tool. Select the art then add the feather under **Select > Feather**.

In either program, cut your selection and paste it in the other photo.

A free transform may be needed to get the pasted object to be a good match for what is in the photo with all the other people. In Photoshop, look under **Edit > Free Transform**.

This tool gives you handles to reshape the image. In Gimp, you can scale the layer but not as good as in Photoshop.

Look for the scaling tools in the main tool box. They have one called the Cage tool that does free transform but it's a bit clunky.

Once the item is placed in the correct place, use the eraser tool to clean up the layer you brought in until it blends smoothly. In Photoshop, use a soft brush with fuzzy edges.

In Gimp, make sure Tool options are visible. If not, look under **Windows > Dockable Dialogs** (the options bar window for Gimp). Choose a soft brush.

Save a copy of the photo after you have added the person to make sure everyone likes the placement of the person.

Now flatten the photo and color correct it.

Photoshop: **Layer > Flatten Image**  
Gimp: To do the same steps in Gimp, go to **Image > Flatten Image**.

Photoshop: Do your normal color correction using **Curves/Levels**, **Unsharp mask** and **Image size**.

Gimp: **Levels** is under **Colors menu > levels**. **Image size** is under **Image > Scale Image**. **Unsharp Mask** is under **Filters > Enhance > Unsharp Mask**. **Gray scale** is under **Image > Mode > Gray Scale**.

The final PDF setup will have to convert the photo to CMYK in your layout program if the paper uses Gimp for a photo correction program.

If Gimp is all that the paper has in house, keep digging for those features.



## LEGAL ADVICE

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# Create better design by knowing how it works

BY ED HENNINGER  
HENNINGER CONSULTING

*“DESIGN IS NOT just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works.” — Steve Jobs.*

That’s it. In one brief sentence.

Of course, readers want a newspaper that looks right...and feels right. They want the look and feel of their paper to reflect their community.

But what they want most of all is for their newspaper to work right for them.

Ask readers, and they will tell you they want:

- TEXT THAT is legible, with size and spacing that keeps makes it comfortable to read.
- DESIGN ELEMENTS like standing heads, section flags and columns sigs, that are simple and clean.
- CONSISTENCY of these design elements throughout the entire newspaper.
- DISPLAY FONTS that are readable, crisp and appealing.
- SHORTER STORIES that are written clearly and flow easily.
- EDITING that makes these stories even easier to follow.
- PHOTOS THAT grab reader attention because they have interest, information and impact.
- PAGE STRUCTURE that makes it easier for readers to see what goes with what.
- SPACING between packages that helps readers see that structure.

<p><b>QUICK INFO</b></p> <p><b>GO PLACIDLY</b> amid the noise and remember what peace there may be in silence.</p> <p><b>AS FAR AS POSSIBLE</b> without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.</p> <p><b>SPEAK YOUR TRUTH</b> quietly and clearly and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.</p> <p><b>AVOID LOUD</b> and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit.</p> <p><b>IF YOU COMPARE</b> yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter.</p> <p><b>ENJOY YOUR</b> achievements as well as your plans for your life.</p> <p><b>KEEP INTERESTED</b> in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.</p> <p><b>EXERCISE CAUTION</b> in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery.</p> <p><b>BUT LET THIS NOT</b> blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.</p> <p><b>BE YOURSELF.</b> Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass.</p> <p><b>TAKE KINDLY</b> the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.</p>	<p><b>QUICKINFO</b></p> <p><b>GO PLACIDLY</b> amid the noise and remember what peace there may be in silence.</p> <p><b>AS FAR AS POSSIBLE</b> without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.</p> <p><b>SPEAK YOUR TRUTH</b> quietly and clearly and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.</p> <p><b>AVOID LOUD</b> and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit.</p> <p><b>IF YOU COMPARE</b> yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter.</p> <p><b>ENJOY YOUR</b> achievements as well as your plans for your life.</p> <p><b>KEEP INTERESTED</b> in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.</p> <p><b>EXERCISE CAUTION</b> in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery.</p> <p><b>BUT LET THIS NOT</b> blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.</p> <p><b>BE YOURSELF.</b> Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass.</p> <p><b>TAKE KINDLY</b> the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.</p>	<p><b>QUICKINFO</b></p> <p><b>GO PLACIDLY</b> amid the noise and remember what peace there may be in silence.</p> <p><b>AS FAR AS POSSIBLE</b> without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.</p> <p><b>SPEAK YOUR TRUTH</b> quietly and clearly and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.</p> <p><b>AVOID LOUD</b> and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit.</p> <p><b>IF YOU COMPARE</b> yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter.</p> <p><b>ENJOY YOUR</b> achievements as well as your plans for your life.</p> <p><b>KEEP INTERESTED</b> in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.</p> <p><b>EXERCISE CAUTION</b> in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery.</p> <p><b>BUT LET THIS NOT</b> blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.</p> <p><b>BE YOURSELF.</b> Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass.</p> <p><b>TAKE KINDLY</b> the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.</p>
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The infobox at left has more impact, but it’s so dark the text will be very difficult to read. Better to use a much lighter screen...or a shadow box.

- COLOR USE that makes sense.
- TINT BLOCKS that add impact—but don’t make type difficult to read.
- SEQUENCING that makes the different content areas of your newspaper (e.g., news, opinion, sports, features...) easy to follow.
- CONSISTENT placement of that content from issue to issue.

We can give readers all of these. And, in the process of doing that, we can rid

our newspapers of those elements that create clutter and confusion.

If we start with how design works, it just makes sense that we’ll create a better design.

ED HENNINGER, an independent newspaper consultant and director of Henninger Consulting, offers comprehensive newspaper design services including redesigns, workshops, design training and design evaluations. Contact Henninger at [www.henningerconsulting.com](http://www.henningerconsulting.com), email [edh@henningerconsulting.com](mailto:edh@henningerconsulting.com) or phone (803) 327-3322.

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## You've Got Questions!

- Can I photograph minors without consent?
- Can police deny access to records by issuing a press release?
- 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. Newspapers always need timely legal advice on issues related to newspaper publishing.

## You should join OPA'S LEGAL SERVICES PLAN!

See [www.OkPress.com/LSP](http://www.OkPress.com/LSP) or contact Lisa Sutliff at (405) 499-0026 or toll-free in Oklahoma 1-888-815-2672

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#### NOVEMBER 2017 COLUMN WINNER

**SUZIE CAMPBELL**, *Countywide & Sun*

### A place where lives can be changed

Last month I wrote a series about domestic violence. I wrote my own experience with this national problem. While writing the series I discovered how much the perspective has changed regarding this, but I also discovered how much it has remained the same.

Changes have been made to laws as well as the training of law enforcement on how to handle these situations. When I went through my experience, there was no such thing as stalking.

There are now laws to protect victims from their stalkers.

Law enforcement officers now receive training as well as the use of forms to determine the severity of the abuse. According to Deputy Scott Hawkins, there are questions on the forms that can "trigger" the need for safety plans without the victim asking directly for help.

The public as a whole is more aware and informed about domestic violence. However, the age-old question of "Why didn't she just leave?" still tends to be the first question asked. I said it in the series and I'll say it again here. It is not that simple. The abuse begins slowly and by the time you consider leaving, the abuser has control over your life. When they feel that control is slipping is when things become more violent. When you gather the courage to leave is when the abuser feels he or she has lost all control. This is when they become the most violent.

It is not always a threat directed at the victim that keeps them in the relationship. It is often a threat to those they love. I know my ex made threats to me to harm members of my family.

This was way more terrifying than the thought of staying in the relationship. I made the choice to marry this person. My family should not be harmed for my bad decisions. So I stayed in the relationship much longer than I should have.

Sometimes the threats are made against the pets. For most of us our pets are an extension of our family and most shelters are not equipped to take in the victim and their pet. However, I recently saw where the Women's Resource

Center of Norman opened a shelter for the dogs and cats of abused women.

So many changes are being made to make it easier for victims to leave their abusers. Pottawatomie County is looking at an opportunity to make leaving easier with a new Family Justice Center.

The Family Justice Center's One Safe Place offers a way out to victims. "We have investigators, advocacy, prosecutors, legal aide and mental health services," said Cathy Adams, Assistant District Attorney.

All of these services located in one place. No need for multiple stops. I can only imagine how awesome that would be. The ability to walk out of an abusive relationship and into a facility designed to wrap their services around you, to lift you up emotionally, psychologically and spiritually. A place where they believe you, believe your story.

"One of the big keys that is important to me personally," said District Attorney Richard Smothermon, "research shows, that after the basic needs are met, that is food and shelter, clothing, maybe transportation, the third most important thing is spiritual care. Because you had this traumatic event, you need somebody to talk to.

"Right back here in my floor plan is a chapel. You walk in these doors, no access here, no access here, then over here these are all sealed entrances. You can talk to the receptionist, you can go to the bathroom or you can go pray."

The Family Justice Center's One Safe Place is well on its way to becoming the one stop shop it should be, but they will need the help of the community to bring this vision to fruition. A time will come when money will be needed to build a facility to host all of the services mentioned above as well as a courtroom, a chapel and possibly a school. This will be a place where the victim and their children can go and feel safe and protected.

This will be a place where their lives will be changed, saved. This will be One Safe Place.

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