

NMA, NNA to combine forces on postal policy

The News Media Alliance and National Newspaper Association, both long-standing newspaper advocacy organizations with Washington, D.C., area offices, have created a joint policy group to assist their members in the newspaper industry with postal issues and public policy.

NNA, founded in 1885 as Newspaper Editorial Association, will take the lead on postal issues, an area of expertise for its entire history. News Media Alliance, whose legacy organization was founded in 1887, will advise NNA on digital publishing policies, on which it has sharpened its expertise since the breakup of the Bell telephone companies in the 1990s.

As part of the agreement, the National Newspaper Association Foundation will open its postal training tools to NMA members and NNA will assist in case-specific postal problems through its Postal Hotline.

NMA will continue to factor in the concerns of community newspapers in its

See NMA, NNA on Page 3



*Best wishes for the holidays
and the coming new year.
From your friends at Oklahoma Press*

From the President

By John Denny Montgomery

Co-Publisher, The Purcell Register • OPA President 2021-2022



Don't we all just love to take heat from the public?

We're in a very unforgiving profession where compliments are few and far between.

Even a comment like "you didn't screw it up" feels like a mighty pat on the back. It feels like a good day when we get one of those!

One of my most memorable rear-end chewings, or a moment of intense fellowship if you will, happened to me on a phone call I took while driving to my wedding with Emily in Austin, Tex.

A really good advertiser (a half page in every issue) called me while I was southbound on I-35 headed through the Arbuckle Mountains.

Boyd Street Magazine in Norman, which Emily and I published at the time, had a section called "On The Scene" that printed party pictures in every issue. It was three to five pages of revelers from the bar scene around Norman and OU.

My advertiser, who managed multiple bars in town, called. So it was a no-brainer to answer, even though I was supposed to be out of the office. When I answered he led in with a tongue lashing beginning by saying, "Does everyone get uglier when they come into my bar?!"

Whoa. I'm all ears.

"No," I responded.

"Then why are the pictures so bad in every issue?!"

"I'll make sure to talk to my photographer," I said.

I let him vent while wondering to myself if my decision to pick up the call was a good or bad one. I ended up handling the assignments for those bars myself for the next couple of issues and the conflict was resolved.

At The Purcell Register we have an open door policy. Anyone from the mayor to the dog catcher can come right in and talk to us pretty much anytime.

Your paper may need or want to take a more cautious approach in light of recent events. You never know who is coming through the door with ill intent. Maybe you're getting social media threats and you need to take those seriously.

A great resource is www.cpj.org (Committee to Protect Journalists). Although they focus mostly on world conflict, their Journalist Security Guide is worth a look and can help journalists protect themselves, physically and digitally, while covering news in a dangerous and changing world.

A few years ago we had another moment that makes a guy rethink some decisions.

A highly agitated man whom none of us knew walked in the front door and stormed into the back part of our office where the main newsroom is. We knew it wasn't going to be a normal visit from a loyal subscriber when he continued smoking his Marlboro Red 100 while he began screaming and cussing about the "crooked sheriff" we had in McClain County.

He had a beef with the sheriff and let it be known he was going to firebomb the courthouse and the sheriff's office in not-so-subtle terms. We listened quietly and as soon as he was out the door we locked down the office and called the sheriff to warn him. Of course he was known to deputies and was arrested on charges of threatening law enforcement.

Another time a pair of guys came into our office with a bone to pick about a story we had published that mentioned a relative of theirs. Imagine the guys you see in a dive bar – big dudes in jean jackets, steely eyed with hardened fists. Trust me, these guys were bigger than the version you see in your head right now. I guarantee you. They were Cousin Eddie on steroids. It took some smooth talking to get them out of the newspaper that day but we survived and continue the open-door policy still today.

Despite the crazies in the world, The Purcell Register maintains an open door policy. The policy is even more fruitful when dealing with more level-headed members of the public.

A lot of times disagreements or misunderstandings can be resolved by sitting down face to face with somebody and having a candid conversation. These work so much better than social media interactions, but we all already know this. And just remember this the next time you take it on the chin from someone off the street. In OPA, there are folks just like you from all over the state who go through the same things day in and day out.

Microfilm subscription service ends

The Oklahoma Historical Society is no longer offering a subscription service for the newspaper microfilm collection.

The subscription service program allowed publishers, libraries, historical societies and others to automatically receive the newest roll available at a significant discount, said Sarah Biller, newspaper department supervisor at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

"Creating and duplicating microfilm has become much more expensive, so we are not offering any discounts at this time," Biller said.

The Oklahoma Historical Society will continue to microfilm all newspapers that they receive. The microfilm is available for in-house use or for special orders. Copies of the newspaper microfilm are available for \$100 per roll.

Biller said eventually OHS will discontinue the creation of new rolls of microfilm and will convert to digital preservation by either scanning hardcopies or collecting digital-born editions.

Although there is not yet a timeline for this, it will likely happen in the next three to five years, Biller said.

"This does not mean that the OHS will be getting rid of any of our current microfilm collection," said Biller. "We will always keep what we already have for archival preservation."

The OHS Newspaper Archives currently consist of over 4,000 titles on approximately 41,000 rolls of microfilm dating from 1844 to the present.

NMA, NNA combine forces

Continued from Page 1

advocacy on important industry issues like the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act, and the two groups will form a consultative task force to help the industry to speak with one voice on other critical issues, such as journalism and First Amendment advocacy. NMA manages the media industry's News Media for Open Government coalition, which includes organizations that lobby for government transparency. NNA is a founding member of NMOG.

The agreement's member-benefits offerings will take effect in January 2022, and will feature training for newspapers and publishers in the use of Periodicals mail. Growing numbers of newspaper publishers are turning to mail delivery for distribution. Advocacy consultation has already begun.

NNA Chair Brett Wesner and NNA Executive Vice President & General Counsel Danielle Coffey said they saw this agreement as a powerful combination to create efficiency in newspaper industry advocacy and training.

"These are the two organizations that have been the voices for newspapers in Washington for more than a century, NNA representing the smaller newspapers and NMA the larger ones," Wesner, president of Wesner Publications, Cordell, Oklahoma, said. "The demands and expenses of doing this work have accelerated in recent years and we see that this trajectory is going to continue. It seemed to both of us that we could do a better job if we eliminate duplication and amplify our voices wherever possible."

"The News Media Alliance is pleased to partner with NNA to help amplify our voice on key shared issues of importance to our members," Coffey said. "We look forward to collaborating with NNA to help drive important public policy results that will benefit local news publishers, as well as equip our members with resources and training to help navigate the changing postal landscape."

While NNA and NMA will handle the public policy side, the NNA Foundation's role will be the third leg of this innovative partnership, bringing

ing a broad educational piece to the table.

"NNA Foundation has been accelerating its newspaper training programs all year," NNA Foundation President Matt Adelman, publisher of the Douglas (Wyoming) Budget, said. "We have periodic webinars on all sorts of subjects. This agreement will become part of our new Max Heath Postal Institute, whose mission is to make newspapers and printers better users of the mail. NMA's members will be eligible to join us for this training. We look forward to working together."

The faculty for the joint training endeavors will be the Washington office and headquarters personnel for NNA and NMA, including Danielle Coffey, NMA executive vice president and general counsel; Lynne Lance, NNA executive director; Tonda Rush, NNA General Counsel; Matthew Paxton, publisher of the News-Gazette, Lexington, Virginia, and Bradley Hill, president of Interlink Inc., a postal software company.

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Oklahoma State Alumna Wally Funk became the oldest person to go to space at age 82, traveling aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard Spacecraft.

Photo by ASHLYND HUFFMAN, Stillwater News Press, October 12, 2021



Stephen Watkins reacts when being placed into a tank during a baptism by Trent Daniel. Watkins is a patient of Complete Hospice Care.

Photo by MATT SWEARENGIN, Durant Democrat, October 7, 2021

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Durant Democrat

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Claremore Daily Progress names Choate as publisher

Ed Choate has been named as publisher of the Claremore Daily Progress.

He has been serving as an overseer at the daily publication since early 2020.

Choate is also publisher of the Muskogee Phoenix, and will continue in that role. Both newspapers are owned by parent company CNHI, LLC.

"I look forward to getting involved with the Claremore community," said Choate. "Our staff is fairly small, but we have an outstanding group of people here who are dedicated to community journalism."

Dale Brendel, CNHI Regional Executive for Okla-



Ed Choate

homa, said Choate is familiar with the Progress staff.

"Ed has been involved behind the scenes, but now he's set to take a more active role," said Brendel.

Choate has more than 35 years of newspaper experience. Before joining the Muskogee Phoenix in 2005, he worked in the sports departments at Dallas, Fort Worth, Orlando, New Orleans and Greenville, South Carolina. He is also a former publisher of the CNHI McAlester News-Capital.

"I am excited with this opportunity," Choate said. "Claremore is a newsy community and the Daily Progress is committed to informing it with impartial, fact-based information."

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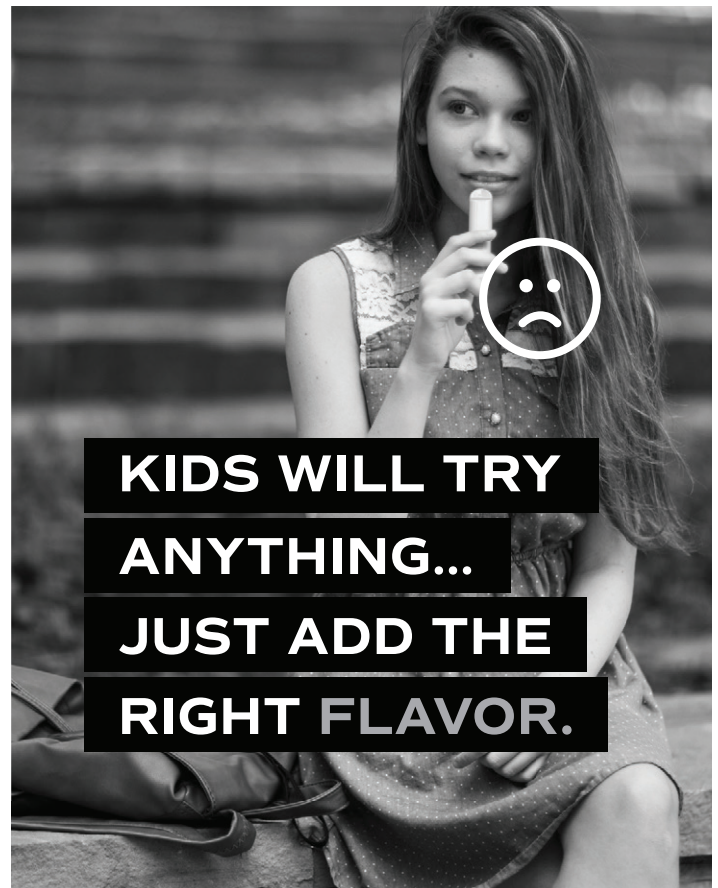


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Windows 11 may be on your Christmas computer



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

Many of you may end up with a new computer this Christmas. If it's a new PC, it will most likely come with a copy of Windows 11 on the drive. Let's take a quick look at what may cause problems when it is integrated into the office workflow.

Many things are different from Windows 10. One that trips up most people is where the shut down button is located. The whole start menu has been moved and redesigned. There are no live tiles now, just apps and recommendations that float at the bottom center, left of the taskbar. If you don't like what you see, you can right click to get rid of them. Windows plans to

release an update next fall that will make it more customizable.

When you right click in this area, an icon will get you to the menu items – and more menus are coming.

A large window opens and at the bottom of that screen on the right is the shutdown icon. You will be presented with an array of icons and a few useful buttons. Also, the search bar has been moved to the top of this window. Look for the “All Apps” button to find what programs are installed on the computer.

The settings app moved to its own station, pinned to the Taskbar. Microsoft is continuing to move items from the older control panel to the settings panel. The setting panel now has a new look. It's much more attractive to look at, but everything moved. When using this look for the hidden scroll bars on the left of the two column layout. Much is hidden if the user doesn't know to look for these bars.

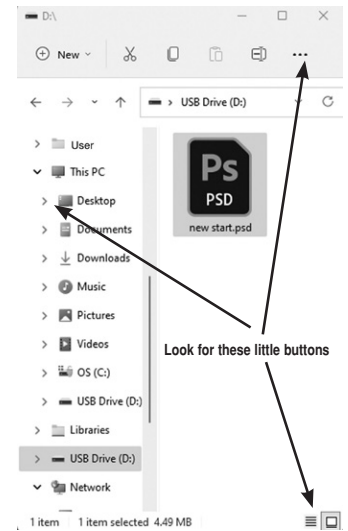
If you need to add a printer, look under Bluetooth and devices in the list. Under the settings window click on **Bluetooth and devices > Devices** > and scroll to the bottom.

There you will find a menu item for Devices and Printers that takes you to Control Panel Devices and Printers. If you use Windows 11 to setup the printer be sure to toggle off the button that says, “let Windows manage my default printer.”

The best way to get to what is left of the old Control Panel is to search for it with the search bar at the top of the Start menu box.

Setting up Wifi from the task bar requires an extra click as you are presented with a panel of items to control when you click the Wifi button at the bottom of the screen. When selected, this new area on the lower left of the Wifi button brings up a nice area for controlling sound and Airplane mode, and is customizable by clicking the edit pen tool at the bottom of the box. This is called Quick settings or notification center. It's at the lower right on the taskbar and looks very much like the Mac, as does much of the interface.

New Windows 11 computers seem to boot very quickly compared to Windows 10. To run Windows 11 requires a fairly fast computer. Every



update seems to bring new changes. It's a work in progress for sure. In order to run it we'll look for little buttons that look like pens or gears as well as scroll bars in windows, even if they do not show up until you mouse over them.

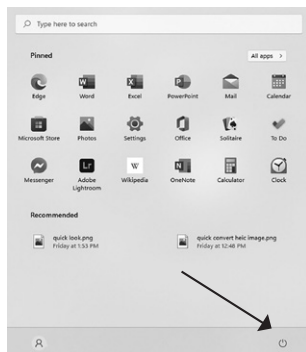
File Explorer is nice to look at. Note the two little buttons on the lower left of the window. It's a switch to see things in list view vs. icon mode.

The menu bar at the top is almost gone replaced by icons under the view menu. At the bottom look for “Show item;” this lets you get to some of the older view settings like hide/show details pane and file name extensions.

The menus have been replaced with just a few buttons. It took many years to fully develop the menu systems and now all we're left with are buttons and lack of full control. All for the sake of a clean, easy to use interface.

Microsoft would like for most of the Apps to be installed through its Microsoft store.

OPA Computer Consultant Wilma Newby's column is brought to you by the Oklahoma Advertising Network (OAN). For more information on the OAN program, contact Oklahoma Press Service at (405) 499-0020.



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Felder joins Oklahoman as reporter

The Oklahoman is growing its statehouse reporting team.

Currently, The Oklahoman has one full-time statehouse reporter, Carmen Forman, who provides readers with breaking news, in-depth stories and analysis.

Joining Forman at The Oklahoman, thanks to a two-year grant from the Kirkpatrick Foundation, is Ben Felder, an experienced investigative reporter.

Felder spent five years at The Oklahoman, where he helped launch an investigative team and was later named news director.

For the past two years, he has worked for The Frontier, a nonprofit news outlet.

Oklahoman Executive Editor Ray Rivera said Forman and Felder will be joined by more Oklahoman reporters in February to cover the upcoming legislative session.

"We're deeply thankful to the Kirkpatrick Foundation for helping us make this happen," Rivera said.

DEATHS

NELLIE CATLETT, a former worker for the Enid News & Eagle, died Sept. 22, 2021. She was 74.

Catlett was born Sept. 22, 1947, in Fairview.

After earning a certificate

in printing she went to work for a newspaper in Canton. In 1970, she moved to Enid and went to work for the Enid News & Eagle. Catlett worked at the newspaper for 45 years creating content and putting the paper together.

Catlett is survived by her children, David Tidball, Mary Tidball, Sonya Bigby, Jeff Tidball and Gwen Wilson; four sisters; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

HAROLD R. SOLES, JR., a former editor and sports writer for The Oklahoman, died Nov. 17, 2021. He was 80.

Soles was born Oct. 22, 1941, in Coffeyville, Kansas. He developed an interest in sports reporting while attending Coffeyville Junior College.

In the late 1960's, Soles

moved to Oklahoma City where he joined the sports staff at The Daily Oklahoman. He also served in the Army National Guard and worked as a freelance reporter for Sports Illustrated Magazine.

Soles retired from The Oklahoman after more than 40 years ultimately transi-

tioning from sports reporting to news editing.

He is survived by his children: Laura Gamble of Fayetteville, Ark.; Karen Taggart of Edmond; Terry Hackett of Queensbury, NY; Jackie Meeks of Oklahoma City; and Chris McShane of Oklahoma City; and three sisters.

Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year.

Sherry L. Barby
Nov. 17, 2020

Hall Franklin Duncan
Nov. 30, 2020

Brandon Ray Johnson
Nov. 21, 2020

Lannie Joe Severs
Nov. 3, 2020

Lynda Carol Watkins
Nov. 28, 2020

Clay W. Allen
Dec. 30, 2020

Douglas Allan Davis
Dec. 7, 2020

Robert Lyle Holding
Dec. 22, 2020

C. Dennis Schick
Dec. 7, 2020

Ray Soldan
Dec. 1, 2020

Thank you to the following for their recent donation to the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation:

Ed & Maria Livermore, Ken Reid, Phillip & Jeanne Ann Reid

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

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KIM POINDEXTER, *Tahlequah Daily Press*

Supporting Fourth Estate is critical

If the school district in a small town shut down and children had to be transported elsewhere to get an education, it would have a devastating effect on families. The same would be true if all the clothing stores shut down, and residents were forced to drive to a neighboring city or order from an online catalog.

What if there were no locally owned restaurants, but only outlets for fast food? No place to buy tires, or to get the oil changed? No accountants to prepare taxes, and no attorneys to help write wills or defend folks who run afoul of the law? Nowhere to get a cup of coffee, check out a good book, or buy a baby bed for a grandchild?

Any of these losses would erode a sense of community – a shared identity among those who call that place home, and who hope their children and grandchildren will stay. If residents can't get the essentials from businesses, institutions and organizations that are supposed to serve their basic needs, it won't be long before the community dies on the vine. It might still exist, and people might still live there. But they'll be commuting to jobs elsewhere, and the vibrant, can-do attitude that acts as a glue holding everything together will evaporate.

A community newspaper is no less important than any of these other entities. In some ways, it's even more critical. While a dress can be bought online from Macy's, a movie viewed at a theater within an hour's drive, and groceries can be picked up from the nearest "big box" store, a newspaper's role can't be filled by anything else but another newspaper. CNN, FOX, broadcast affiliates and the nearest metropolitan newspapers just don't cover local news. And social media? Forget about it, unless unsubstantiated rumors, biased snippets and opinionated screeds pass as "news."

For the past week, journalists and those who understand their vital role have been honoring

National Newspaper Week. This year's theme is "Community Forum" – and that's how small newspapers should be viewed. The paper is the hub of information for a community – a one-stop shop for crime news, feature stories, high school football game coverage, club reports, church announcements, and everything else that makes small-town America so special.

Hometown newspapers serve their communities with pride and determination. They are held to high standards that social media outlets don't understand, or don't even consider. They cover meetings of boards of education, city councils, and trust authorities. They immerse themselves in courts and crime news so the public will know who has gone wrong, and who has turned to the straight and narrow. Most importantly, as watchdogs, they hold to the fire the feet of elected officials and those appointed to cushy berths they'd like to keep permanently, without answering to the public.

Without newspapers, there would be no one to hold the powers-that-be accountable – and that's as the powerful want it. When someone repeatedly calls the media "the enemy of the people" and lumps them all into that same sorry category, it's a sure bet the detractor doesn't want the scrutiny with which "the press" was charged by no less than the Framers of the U.S. Constitution.

Everyone likes to lambaste the local newspaper, but critics should ask themselves what their communities would be like without them. The answer is unthinkable. That's why it's so important to support newspapers, just like other local businesses. Otherwise, papers can't survive – and if they go away, so will the communities that relied on them for the service no one else can provide. TDP appreciates the support of Cherokee County and its residents – and in return, we pledge to do the job we were called to do.



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