

Free registration for the OPA Legislative Summit

Mark your calendar for the Oklahoma Press Association's Legislative Summit, scheduled for Thursday, February 10, at the Oklahoma State Capitol in Oklahoma City. There is no fee to attend, but registration is required.

The event begins at 9:30 a.m. when members of OPA meet to hear an overview of legislative issues affecting newspapers.

Then it's time to visit your legislators in their offices.

The most effective contact with legislators is a personal visit. Email ranks fourth and phone calls rank fifth.

Legislators listen to people that make the time to come to the Capitol and express their concerns. Every organization, including those that oppose newspaper interests, goes to

the Capitol to demonstrate commitment to their legislative goals and desires.

Those voices must be offset by the presence of newspaper publishers and editors at the Capitol early in the legislative session.

Newspapers have several important legislative principles to support and defend including First Amendment issues, open meeting and records, public notice and business issues affecting newspapers.

A barbecue lunch will be provided by OPA and state leaders will speak to members of the press in the afternoon.

Register online by February 7, 2022, for this free event at okpress.com/legislative-summit.



The OPA Legislative Summit will be held at the Oklahoma State Capitol in Oklahoma City on February 10, 2022. Register online at okpress.com/legislative-summit.

OPA Better Newspaper Contest changes division criteria to city/town population

For the first time, city/town population instead of newspaper circulation will determine divisions in the Oklahoma Press Association's annual Better Newspaper Contest.

The OPA Awards Committee made the recommendation to base divisions on popula-

tion, which was approved by the OPA Board of Directors in September.

"We have talked about this change for several years. I'm glad to see it. Contest judging will always be subjective, but it is important that we strive for fairness. Having

newspapers in similar markets compete against each other addresses some of the fundamental unfairness inherent in a circulation-based model," said Mark Thomas, OPA Executive Vice President.

This year's population divisions consist of two divisions

for daily newspapers; five divisions for weekly newspapers; semi- and tri-weekly division; and a college newspaper division. Division placement for the daily and weekly divisions will be determined after all entries are received.

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From the President

By John Denny Montgomery

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



Newspaper Contest

Continued from Page 1

Also new this year is the addition of three new categories – Business Story, Education Story and Photo Essay/Picture Page.

“After thoughtful consideration, the OPA Awards Committee came up with some great changes to the contest that will ensure fairness for everyone who enters. I’m excited to see the new rules in action,” said OPA President John Denny Montgomery, who is co-publisher of The Purcell Register.

“The contest is a great way for us to be recognized for our hard work every year. Entering it is a great way to make sure staffs get rewarded for the outstanding journalism they produce,” Montgomery said.

Rules and accompanying information for the 2021 Better Newspaper Contest were mailed to publishers last month. The information is available online at okpress.com/contest.

All entries must be submitted by Monday, February 7, 2022.

The same deadline is applicable for the OPA Magazine Contest, Ray Lokey Memorial Award for Excellence in Reporting, and ONF Joseph H. Edwards Outdoor Writer of the Year, as well as nominations for the OPA Half Century Club and Quarter Century Club, and the ONF Beachy Musselman Award.

For more information about these contests and awards, see okpress.com/awards or call 405-499-0020.

**DEADLINE FOR
ENTRIES AND
NOMINATIONS:
MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

I hope everyone’s new year is off to a healthy start. It hasn’t been the start to the year any of us envisioned but, like always, we’ll pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and make the best of it. It’s scary how Covid continues to have a hold on the country and world.

I was talking to my 10-year-old son, Jack, on the way to a baseball practice this week and the virus inevitably came up. He has several classmates who have contracted Covid recently and it’s been nerve-racking for everyone.

I told him that I feel bad for him because he’s had to deal with this for a major chunk of his childhood. Since he was eight he’s been wearing masks, missing school and friends, and just generally living a different life than most of us ever dreamt of.

But these kids are tough and smart and surely, somehow, this is building character.

At least I hope that’s the case because so far they’ve missed out on so much in their short lives.

WE HAD ANOTHER BUMP IN THE ROAD at our office to start the new year.

It was very minor compared to the terrible pandemic, but a bump nonetheless.

Our telephone provider made us get a new phone system.

Not that we needed it. I remember getting the prior system when I was in high school. I’d say we got our money’s worth!

Change is never easy and switching to new phones presented a few issues.

There are plenty of office problems we have to deal with that can raise your blood pressure, but a new phone system that no one knows how to operate will get the ‘ol systolic number up there pretty high.

During a training session, our phone company liaison told us “it will be pretty difficult to get logged off the system on your own. You’ll almost have to try to log off to actually get logged off.”

The next day I had to log an office coworker back onto the system ...

Said coworker will remain anonymous but she knows who she is.

Needless to say, everyone at our operation was in the hap, hap, happiest mood for most of the week.

It’s ironic that I’m the go-to guy in the office to troubleshoot problems like phones being logged out because I’m not tech savvy.

But I find myself, as well as our graphic designer David Stull, being called upon to solve all kinds of problems.

From computer networking to InDesign pages crashing, we can figure out most anything.

We do have our limits though and when things really hit the fan OPA’s computer consultant Wilma Newby is always a phone call away.

Thank goodness.

JUST A COUPLE REMINDERS OF UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Don’t forget to attend the Oklahoma Press Association Legislative Summit on February 10. The meeting is free to OPA members and you can make a difference for our profession by attending.

It’s always beneficial to meet with your representative face-to-face because it’s a much more personal visit.

The deadline to register is February 7.

The 2021 Better Newspaper Contest deadline is also February 7, for all entries to be postmarked to the OPA office or submitted online via the contest website.

Show off your work to the rest of the membership.

I HOPE EVERYONE STAYS SAFE AND HEALTHY THIS YEAR.

Here’s to wishing you and your operations a prosperous year.

Hopefully we can all find some sort of normalcy and get past this historic event that we all wish we weren’t a part of.

Publisher raises questions at council meeting regarding locked doors, council gatherings prior to meeting

Tishomingo City Council members were warned of alleged violations of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act at its Dec. 6 meeting.

At that meeting, longtime councilman and former Tishomingo mayor Tom Lokey, who is also co-publisher of the Johnston County Sentinel, told the council that he and a Sentinel reporter had both arrived to attend a special meeting held prior to the regular meeting only to find that the doors to City Hall were locked.

Lokey and the reporter were there to attend a special meeting with Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group (OMAG) officials. An agenda had been posted for the special meeting in accordance with state law, but the doors were locked.

"I am putting you on notice that the doors need to be opened for public meetings," Lokey told the council at that meeting.

At the council's January 3 meeting, Lokey raised concerns about an item on the agenda regarding council gatherings prior to regular meetings.

The agenda stated: "... Council may be present beginning at 5:15 p.m. for an informal gathering; no business of the City will be discussed or acted on by a quorum prior to the stated meeting time."

Lokey told the council that such a policy may be in conflict with the intent of the state's Open Meeting Act.

"As a former council member and as your local newspaper's publisher, I am very

concerned about this particular statement," said Lokey.

"The intent of this part of the Open Meeting Act is so that, as a group, it can be allowed for council to be at other functions – such as a groundbreaking or festivity – not as stated here to be used to justify potential pre-meeting meetings," he said.

Lokey recommended that the council instead add a "general discussion" item to the agenda of its regular meetings to allow informal discussions in front of the public "unless specifically meeting the requirements of executive session."

There was no discussion by the council following Lokey's comments.

Newspaper racks vandalized in Miami and Grove

News racks for the Miami News-Record and Grove Sun have been vandalized for the past few months. The newspapers are owned by Reid Newspapers.

In many cases, locks have been cut off, machines made inoperable and money removed.

Reports have been filed with the Miami and Grove police departments and the company intends to file charges against the individual or individuals involved.

Police departments are collecting security video of various locations of the machines.

"It is a shame that it gets to

this point, but we cannot let it continue," said Phillip Reid, CEO of Reid Newspapers, Inc.

"The problem is the damage it does to the machines, which delays readers getting a copy of the newspaper."

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- Should I alter my archives when a person demands it?
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- 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.

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at (405) 499-0033 or toll-free in Oklahoma 1-888-815-2672 today!



OPA board approves contest changes at November meeting

The Oklahoma Press Association Board of Directors met November 11, 2021, by video conference call.

Officers attending were President John Denny Montgomery, The Purcell Register; Vice President Mark Mill-sap, The Norman Transcript; and Treasurer Jeff Mayo, Sequoyah County Times.

Directors attending were Zonelle Rainbolt, Wesner Publications; Don Mecoy, The Oklahoman; Shauna Belyeu, The Eufaula Indian Journal; Sheila Gay, Woodward News; and Suzie Campbell, County-wide & Sun. Misti Rinehart, Tulsa World, was unable to attend.

Also attending were OPA Executive Vice President Mark Thomas and Member Services Director Lisa Sutliff.

After calling the meeting to order, Montgomery asked the

board to review the minutes of the September 16, 2021, meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

Thomas presented the OPA and LSP financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2021. Thomas said net income is slightly lower than budgeted but higher than at this time last year. LSP is in a strong financial condition and has no current Plan B defense cases, Thomas said. The board also reviewed a cash consolidated summary and the investment report. The board acknowledged receipt of all reports for the period ending October 31, 2021.

The board requested proposals for audit and tax preparation services from other audit firms. OPA, OPS and ONF have used the same audit firm for the past five years. It is recommended that a

non-profit organization change audit firms every three to five years. Thomas will prepare an RFP and request proposals from several accounting firms to share with the board for a hiring determination.

Committee activity reports were presented to the board including:

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Gay said the board previously voted to base the Better Newspaper Contest divisions on town population instead of newspaper circulation and tasked the Awards Committee with revising the rules. Gay said the committee recommended revision of the contest rules language as well as revising the number of daily and weekly newspaper divisions as follows:

DIVISIONS: There are nine (9) divisions.

Division placement for OPA Business Member Newspapers is determined by city/town population as reported in the 2020 Census performed by the U.S. Census Bureau and on file with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

Population Divisions are as follows:

• 2 divisions for Daily Newspapers:

Division placement will be determined when all entries have been received. Participating daily newspapers will be sorted in order of city population and entries will be divided as equally as possible into two population divisions.

(Decrease from 3 to 2 divisions)

• Semi- and Tri-Weekly Newspapers

• 5 divisions for Weekly Newspapers:

Division placement will be determined when all entries have been received. Participating weekly newspapers will be sorted in order of city population and entries will be divided as equally as possible into five population divisions.

(Increase from 4 to 5 divisions)

• College Newspapers

The committee also proposed the addition of three individual categories to the

contest: Business Story, Education Story, and Photo Essay/ Picture Page.

Gay said the committee also proposed removal of the Multiple Publications rule from the Better Newspaper Contest since several newspaper companies and groups are publishing the same sections and content.

The board accepted the three recommendations of the Awards Committee.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee met at the OPA office in Oklahoma City on October 14 to plan the 2022 Convention. Rainbolt said the committee selected a movie theme for the June 10-11 convention, which will include a tour of the Prairie Surf Studios across the street from the convention venue. Bill Hancock, Oklahoma native and executive director of the College Football Playoff, will serve as keynote speaker. The committee is planning a discussion forum for Gubernatorial candidates in the 2022 election and panel discussion by local film-making experts and newspaper representatives. Other sessions include: News Flash, the annual Congressional Q&A, and combined bloopers show and ice cream social. The committee also planned concurrent sessions with three news/editorial-focused sessions and three revenue-based sessions for Friday afternoon.

LSP COMMITTEE

Campbell said the LSP Committee approved a licensing agreement model document prepared by LSP Attorney Doug Dodd. Newspaper members often receive requests for stories and photos from their archives. The new model document assists in

See OPA Board, Page 5

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Gwartney named director of Freedom of Information Okla.

Kurt Gwartney has been named as the new executive director of Freedom of Information Oklahoma.

He is FOI Oklahoma's third director, succeeding Andy Moore and Kay Bickham.

Gwartney's duties will include day-to-day administration, fundraising and coordination of FOI Oklahoma's education and advocacy events.

The organization hosts an annual First Amendment Congress for high school students, an awards program for transparency champions, and a series of educational sessions on the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and Open Records Act.

Gwartney serves as the communications director for Phillips Seminary in Tulsa. He worked as the communications director for the eastern Oklahoma region of the American Red Cross and served as the news director at NPR affiliate KGOU from 2008-2014.

In addition to studying journalism and political science at Oklahoma State University, Gwartney has a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Colorado Christian University, a master's in divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary and a certificate in nonprofit management from the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits.

OPA Board *Continued from Page 4*

providing permission for use of the archived material.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the board reviewed the OPA-OSU Print Journalism Endowment Fund trust financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2021. The trust was created by donations in 1984 to support print journalism programs at OSU. Thomas said a five-person committee awards scholarships to students that also work at the O'Colly student newspaper.

Thomas discussed a new system, trust.text, which is managed by not-for-profit JournalList. JournalList is working to make it easier for online search engines to differentiate between legitimate and fake news sites. News publications that join JournalList insert a trust.txt file on their websites to identify them

as trustworthy news sources and to network with other sites. A motion was made and approved by the board to join JournalList.

The next regular meeting of the OPA Board of Directors is scheduled for February 10 after the Legislative Summit at the State Capitol.

OPS BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the September 16, 2021, board meeting were approved as presented.

Mayo presented the OPS financial statement, which showed an increase in total assets and net income. Revenue for the Open Meeting and Records book sales, classified network and digital clipping is higher than budgeted. Equipment maintenance and repair expenses increased this year due to contracting with an IT firm last fiscal year.



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Erich Minton uses damp newspaper to shape glass in his glassblowing shop in Bartlesville. Erich has been working with glass for over 18 years and was first introduced to glassblowing at Central College in Pella, Iowa, where he graduated as an art major..

Photo by ANDY DOSSETT, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, November 7, 2021



Owasso Economic Development Director Chelsea Levo Feary licks whipped cream off her chin after getting a pie thrown in her face for the City's United Way fundraiser.

Photo by ART HADDAWAY, Owasso Reporter, November 3, 2021

NOVEMBER 2021
DAILY, SEMI- AND
TRI-WEEKLY WINNER:

**ANDY
DOSSETT**
*Bartlesville
Examiner-Enterprise*

NOVEMBER 2021
WEEKLY WINNER:

**ART
HADDAWAY**
Owasso Reporter

The November 2021 contest
was judged by a member
of the Oklahoma
Journalism Hall of Fame.

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Trail Miller sells Thomas Tribune to Parkinsons

The Thomas Tribune was recently sold to Colton and Arianna Parkinson of Fay, Okla., announced Paul Miller, manager of Trailer Miller Co., LLC, and publisher of the weekly newspaper.

Prior to the sale, Parkinson was the graphic artist and advertising director for Trail Miller, LLC. She started working for The Thomas Tribune in 2004-2005.

A native of Fay, Parkinson graduated from Southwestern State University in 2007 with a degree in Mass Communications.

"We are very excited to serve our community and con-

tinue the traditions that only a local publication like The Thomas Tribune can bring to the area," said Parkinson. "We are looking forward to being a part of the next chapter for the paper.

"Colton and I are blessed to live in such a great community and look forward to giving back by publishing a quality local newspaper."

Trail Miller, LLC purchased The Thomas Tribune in 2019 from the Harold and Donna Gleason family.

"We want to thank the folks of the Thomas, Fay and Custer City communities for allowing us to be a part of

their lives the last couple of years," said Laubach. "Personal family matters and future endeavors require me to change focus at Trail Miller Co., and because of my great respect for the people of Thomas, our family felt it was best to let someone local run The Thomas Tribune.

"I have the greatest respect for Arianna and she has been loyal to our company, The Tribune and the newspaper industry. She and her husband are undoubtedly qualified to lead the newspaper, and I have no doubts that they will serve the community well."



The Oklahoman to end Saturday home delivery

Citing shifts toward digital news consumption, The Oklahoman announced it will cease home delivery on Saturdays beginning March 26.

The new model means subscribers will get newspapers delivered to their homes six days a week, with a digital newspaper available every day.

Ray Rivera, Oklahoman executive editor, said the change is being made in response to subscriber and advertising trends.

Subscribers of The Oklahoman will have access to the USA TODAY Network's full suite of e-Editions across the country, as well as ad-free access to the crossword puzzle.

This change is taking place at numerous other publications in the USA TODAY Network, which The Oklahoman is part of.

SPJ Oklahoma names John Small to board

John Small, managing editor of the Johnston County Sentinel in Tishomingo, was recently named to a two-year term on the board of directors of the Society of Professional Journalists' Oklahoma Pro Chapter.

Small began his journalism career at the Kankakee



Daily Journal in Illinois while attending Olivet Nazarene University. After graduating in 1991, he returned to his home state of Oklahoma as a staff reporter for the Johnston County Capital-Democrat until 1995.

He served a two-year stint at the Durant Daily Democrat, then returned to the Capital-Democrat as news editor. In 2018, he helped launch the Johnston County Sentinel.

Small was awarded the Carter Bradley First Amend-

ment Award by SPJ Oklahoma in 2019. That same year, he received the Ray Lokey Award for Excellence in Reporting.

During his career, Small has won numerous awards. He is also the author of 11 books.

Oklahoma SPJ President Heide Brandes said Small brings a wealth of knowledge to the SPJ board.

"John Small is an excellent addition to our board," said Brandes. "He will be a wonderful voice for community journalists across Oklahoma."

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DEATHS

TIM CURTIN, who owned and operated the Watonga Republican and other area newspapers for many years, died December 31, 2021. He was 77.

Chester Timothy Curtin was born September 18, 1944, and grew up in Watonga.

He attended college at Oklahoma State University

but returned home to run the Watonga Republican after his father passed away. Tim finished college at Southwestern State University in Weatherford.

Along with his father, Gerald Timothy 'Cowboy' Curtin, the family owned and published the Watonga Republican for 69 years.

In addition to the Watonga

Republican, at one time Curtin owned and operated the Canton Times, Okeene Record, Hinton Record, Hydro Review and Geary Times.

He ran the Watonga Republican until he retired in 2010.

He was active in various state and local organizations throughout his life including Kiwanis, Board of Health of Blaine County, Masons,

American Legion, Oklahoma Board of Prisons and National Guard.

Curtin is survived by his wife, Judy; son, Ward Timothy Curtin of Oklahoma City; daughters Trisha Cochlin of Edmond, and Carrie Todd of Fort Worth; his sister, two stepsons, and many other relatives and friends.

DANA REINSCHMIEDT, a salesperson at The Thomas Tribune, died December 7, 2021. She was 48.

Dana Jean (Fite) Rein-

schmiedt was born August 27, 1973 in Carnegie. She was raised in Thomas and graduated from Thomas High School in 1991. She married

Paul Reinschmiedt on August 27, 1996, in Arapaho.

She was a member of the Custer City First Christian Church.

Reinschmiedt is survived by her husband Paul of the home; daughter Darrien Comstock of Thomas; son Hunter Reinschmiedt of the home; two sisters; and one brother.

PAUL LEO SCHNOEBELN, who worked at The Mooreland Leader after high school, died December 17, 2021. He was 96.

Schnoebelen was born February 12, 1925. After graduating from Mooreland High

school, he joined his father in publishing and editing The Mooreland Leader.

In addition to The Leader, he worked at newspapers in Roswell, N.M., Macksville, Kan., and Plano, Texas.

Schnoebelen was publisher

and editor of the Macksville Enterprise from 1955-85 and was a member of the Kansas Press Association. He retired from the newspaper business and moved to Hot Springs Village in 2004.

He married Jo Ann 'Honey'

Kepler in Mooreland in 1948 and they had six children.

Schnoebelen is survived by his son, Randy; daughters Stephanie Stoklosa, Jamie Burch, and Tawn Schnoebelen; 17 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

ROSEMARY RIDDLE SIMPSON, a former columnist for The Daily Oklahoman, died December 27, 2021. She was 80.

Simpson was born August 30, 1942. She graduated from Eufaula High School in 1959 and received a degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma in 1963.

She worked for The Daily Oklahoman for 10 years as a columnist. She also served as co-editor of the Outdoors News with her father, H.M. Riddle.

Simpson is survived by her husband of 58 years, R.L. Simpson, III; daughter Regan Urquhart; and five grandchildren.

BLAKE ALLAN WELLS, publisher of The Boise City News, died Dec. 18, 2021. He was 35.

Wells was born July 25, 1986, in Guymon and grew up in Ulysses, Kansas. He married Ashley Gardner in August 2008 and they had five children: Abigail, 13; Trenton, 12;

twins Reaha and Rebeka, 10; and Amanda, 8.

Blake and Ashley Wells purchased The Boise City News in 2015. He could trace his newspaper roots back to the previous publisher, C.F. David, who was a relative. Blake also had experience from two previous newspaper jobs that he held in Kansas

where he specialized in the technology side of the business.

At The Boise City News, Blake used his technology expertise to produce the newspaper while Ashley worked on the editorial side. Blake also loved adventures, camping, working, scouting and Rotary.

He is survived by his wife

Ashley and their five children, all of the home; his mother, Mary Overstreet of Stratford, Texas; brother Rodney of Ulysses, Kansas; sisters Shandi of Stratford, and Destiny of Oklahoma City; and his grandmother, June Harryman of Stratford.

Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year.

Clay W. Allen
December 30, 2020

Douglas Allan Davis
December 7, 2020

Robert Lyle Holding
December 22, 2020

C. Dennis Schick
December 7, 2020

Ray Soldan
December 1, 2020

Thomas Earl Bailey
January 26, 2021

Janis Wimberly Hruby
January 16, 2021

Melba Lovelace
January 28, 2021

Rebecca Ann 'Becky' Mayo
January 14, 2021

Mae Musgrove
January 11, 2021

John Bennett Pickens
January 3, 2021

Anthony 'Tony' Lee Pippen
January 11, 2021

Fritz Wade Wirt
January 6, 2021

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

Barb Walter

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New year a good time for computer maintenance



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

The new year often starts a little slow after the big Christmas rush. It's a good time to catch up on things that are required to make the coming year run smoothly.

A few papers are updating their computers. This is a great time for employees to learn about newer operating systems and software.

Other papers are reviewing their computers to see if any updates can be made.

This is also a good time to check your backups to see if current ones are available for all the computers in the office.

Another area to check is your antivirus. Make sure it's updated and then run a full scan. And if the antivirus on any computer is no longer working, it's time to look for something that does work.

Older Macs seem to be having trouble finding good, free antivirus software. Take a look at AVG antivirus or MacKeeper. They seem to work on older computers.

Don't forget to check hard drives on the computers to see if they're getting too full. They often get loaded down with photos and downloaded email attachments.

To check on an Apple computer, click on the desktop, then go to the **Go** menu and

down to **Utilities**. Now open **Disk Utility**. The name of the primary hard drive should be listed at the left. Click on that and look for the size of the drive in the information on the left.

If the drive is more than 80 percent full, you need to do some cleanup. Back up and delete files until some space is regained. After the cleanup and while **Disk Utility** is still open, run **First Aid** on the drive.

For Windows computers, open a File Explorer window. On the left look for **This PC**. The primary drive – usually **C:** – will show up in the window. Under it will be the amount of space on the drive. The same rules for Macs apply to PCs – keep 20 percent of the drive space open, if possible.

When cleanup is complete, run the **De-fragment and optimize drives**. On a Windows 10 computer, that's found under the **Start** menu, **Windows Administrative Tools**.

Hard drives that are too full make your computer sluggish and software often crashes. If you're trying to overwrite files, it can freeze the computer. Newer computers often come with very little hard drive space so check this often.

As long as you're cleaning up, clear your web browser's cache. Also, clean up downloaded email file folders. Now empty the trash in the email and on the computer.

Simply putting things in the

trash does not delete it from either the Macs' or PCs' hard drive. Plus, on a Mac, you'll get that gratifying crunching sound as the trash leaves the drive.



The start of the new year is also a good time to remove dust from around the computers. It makes them last longer and run cooler.

If your CPU is covered with papers or other items, move them. You want to let the CPU breathe. It has small fans in it that circulate air. Smaller ones can overheat if covered.

If you're thinking about updating your operating system, take some time to research it. Will the software on the computer still work under a newer OS? Would the web browsers go more places with an updated OS? Many Mac computers can move up a few operating system levels even if they can't go all the way to Monterey, the latest OSX. Check what operating systems can work with your version of Adobe Creative Suite and other

software on the drive prior to updating.

Some papers are running side-by-side computers for employees – one that runs the web and one that runs Creative Suite. If you have this setup, look for switches. These inexpensive devices let the user have one keyboard and one mouse for both computers with a button to switch between them.

Also, check all your computers to see if any are overloaded with USB peripherals. Too many pulling power from the computer can cause problems.

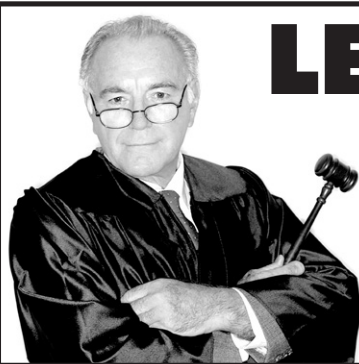
If you have this problem, consider getting a self-powered USB hub. Leave the computer itself with a few free ports. Many PC towers can take the USB drain because they have bigger power supplies in them but laptops and small computers may need help running so many USB devices.

You can also look at the overall picture. How can things be made better? Do you need larger memory cards for your cameras? Are all the backup hard drives full and need to be replaced?

Let's talk a little about email. Clean up your accounts and make sure settings do not automatically load images from unknown senders. Set up junk email filters so the program can help track spam emails coming in. Mark those as spam.

Be careful when clicking the unsubscribe button. Make sure the email is from the company listed or it may make things worse.

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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Robinsons switch three newspapers to new format

Three of the newspapers owned by Bill and Dayna Robinson are sporting a new look.

The Allen Advocate, Coalgate Record-Register and Hughes County Tribune in Wetumka recently converted to a smaller size and are being printed in-house.

The Robinsons are using a Xerox printer to output the three papers printed on 60# white paper, 12 inches by 18 inches, with a finished page size of 9 inches by 12 inches. The printer has a booklet maker that collates, folds and staples the publications, said Dayna Robinson.

"It's a little slow, so we are upgrading to a faster machine," she said.

The change in format was made to cut down on printing costs and driving time, said Robinson.

"The quality is perfect, but we're still working out some bugs on the output of the color," she said.



Bill and Dayna Robinson recently converted these three newspapers to a magazine style format that they print in-house. The Robinsons also own the Holdenville News.

Bill Robinson said they have received nothing but positive comments for the three papers they switched to the magazine style.

He expressed thanks to David and Maria Noble of the Oologah Lake Leader for their guidance in the changeover, and to Eddie Silkey and the staff at NES in Tulsa where they purchased the printer.

"Although there have been some beginning problems,

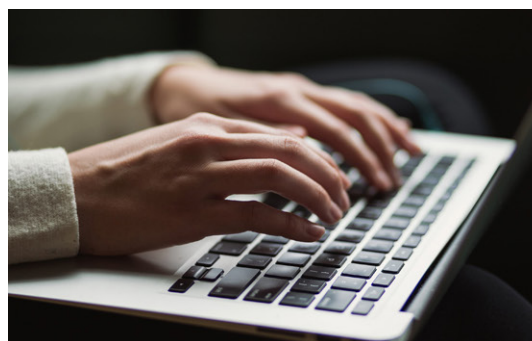
they are being worked out and the changeover has been a very positive thing," said Robinson.

"Change is not something this old-time publisher enjoys, but sometimes it needs to happen and can be a very good thing," he said.

In addition to the new layout, the three papers offer added news items and increased color and quality in printing.

One comment made to their staff by a woman in Coalgate was, "It has taken you 30 years to figure out how to put out a newspaper!"

In addition to the Allen Advocate, Coalgate Record-Register and Hughes County Tribune, the Robinsons also are owners and publishers of the Holdenville News.



Learn the best practices for Public Notices at okpress.com/public-notice-training

The Oklahoma Press Association offers three videos that describe and illustrate the standards and best practices for publication of notices along with downloadable material.

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ASHLYND HUFFMAN, *Stillwater News Press*

The light at the end of the tunnel

Nobody talks about the trauma journalists face while working, and the way we are affected by some of the things we cover.

The series Hidden in Plain Sight focused on the horrors of child sexual abuse and the effect it has on survivors. This topic is difficult for people to read but it was also difficult to write.

I knew the basics of what I wanted this project to be, what I wanted it to say and the impact I hoped it would have. What I didn't know was how the series would impact me as a person and a journalist.

I went to a dark place while working on this series, it's hard to laugh and be happy while listening to someone's worst moments in life, and that went on for most of the year.

Even though the work was hard on me emotionally, I knew it was something worth completing.

The series was about educating people in the community and giving survivors a platform to tell their stories. But when I started looking into doing this as a project I couldn't have imagined the level of impact it would have on the survivors and the community.

The four survivors in the series were brave, raw and honest and went above and beyond to help educate. They were vulnerable and talked about the worst moments of their life, to save another child from sexual violence.

How it started

In 2020 Facebook and other social media platforms were filled with the #SaveOurChildren movement that gained

a lot of traction, before suddenly disappearing. I knew during that time that I wanted to write in-depth on child sexual abuse. But, I was in the middle of finishing up my first investigative series on adult sexual assaults and the lack of prosecution in Payne County, so I tabled that idea for later.

Once January hit, I began thinking of what I could do and looking into who would be good sources. The process of writing and completing a series like this is tedious and it took nine months to complete.

What I learned

When I started conducting interviews and reaching out to the survivors, I was scared. I was scared to retraumatize these women, I was scared they would be publicly shamed for reporting later in life, and I was scared that people wouldn't care about their stories.

What I learned was, the community was receptive to the stories, and people appreciated us taking on such a hard but important topic.

I would like people in the community to know that although this series wasn't pleasant to read each day it was published, the topic is important. Throughout every interview the term "silent epidemic" was used by every source.

What started as a small idea, blossomed into an eight-part series, something I am proud to have accomplished. My byline may be the one on all the stories, but this wouldn't have been possible without the sources who spoke to me and the support I have at the Stillwater News Press.



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The December 2021 Oklahoma Natural Gas Column and Editorial Contest was judged by a member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

1. Each month, send a tearsheet or photocopy of your best column and/or editorial to Oklahoma Natural Gas Contest, c/o OPA, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499. Entries also may be emailed (full-page tearsheet) to news@okpress.com.
2. Include the author's name, name of publication, date of publication and category entered (column or editorial).
3. Only ONE editorial and/or ONE column per writer per month will be accepted.
4. All entries for the previous month must be at the OPA office by the 15th of the current month.
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