

THE KANSAS PUBLISHER



OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION JUNE 19, 2019

INSIDE TODAY

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Two heavyweights, the Inland Press Association and the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, have decided to merge. Here is the announcement and why it makes sense.

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Does your newspaper have a system defect in its approach to advertising sales. John Foust says many organizations need to take a closer look at how they operate.

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KPA president Travis Mounts discusses our responsibility as journalists to fight the “fake news” phenomenon.

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Visit KPA’s marketplace.

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Emily Bradbury analyzes feedback about how we put on the annual convention and Awards of Excellence events. Your comments are welcome.

KPA CALENDAR

JULY 18

Adobe suite webinar by Kevin Slimp. It is underwritten free to KPA members. See page 5 for details.

JULY 19

Proposed closing date for sale of the KPA office.

DEC. 15

Bill of Rights Day, recognizing the 228th anniversary of the ratification by the states.

KNF may fund news internships

The Kansas Newspaper Foundation Board of Trustees met last week to make plans for underwriting future programs and events, with a newspaper internship program coming out as one of the potential initiatives for the next three years.

The balance of invested funds between KNF and the Kansas Press Association is approximately \$1,137,000, which includes KPA invested funds of \$165,000. The KNF portion was donated during a fund-raising effort in the first decade of the new millennium to help underwrite KPA efforts. It has grown significantly through investment earnings over the past 15 years.

“We have a healthy fund balance, so the KNF trustees are making plans on how to utilize those funds to further the newspaper industry in Kansas,” said Emily Bradbury, KPA executive director. “One of our priorities is to align the funding goals of the KNF to the strategic planning process of the association and help further those projects that directly benefit our members.”

An idea attracting the most attention was an internship program that would focus on placing college interns into high-need areas of the state.

Although details are still being worked out, combining funds from KNF with other grant proposals, augmented by some funds from the



Members of the Kansas Newspaper Foundation Board of Trustees and Kansas Press Association Board of Directors discuss potential future KNF projects.

See KNF GOALS on Page 8

Media, ACLU join to protest policies

BY SHERMAN SMITH

Topeka Capital-Journal

Actions taken to quell a protest in the gallery of the Kansas Senate on the final day of the legislative session, including the expulsion of news reporters from the chamber floor, add kindling to a legal firestorm over policy governing Statehouse decorum.

The American Civil Liberties Union in Kansas earlier this year challenged rules that ban handheld signs, prohibit unnecessary noise and require the prior ap-

proval of activities after Kansas State University students were evicted for staging a protest in March.

Both protests involved supporters of Medicaid expansion who targeted GOP leaders for standing in the way of legislation that would provide health care coverage to an additional 130,000 low-income adults and their children.

The ACLU sued the superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol, secretary of the Department of Administration and

director of legislative services for enforcement of rules that restrict First Amendment rights to free speech and protest.

A hearing scheduled for Wednesday before a federal judge in Topeka will include arguments on whether to issue a temporary injunction that would block enforcement of the rules pending the outcome of the case.

“The rules the state is trying to defend are grossly over-

See PROTEST on Page 4

Inland, SNPA chart mega-merger of newspaper, media associations

In concurrent board meetings held recently, directors of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association (SNPA) and the Inland Press Association unanimously approved a plan to consolidate the two associations, effective Oct. 1.

Details of the plan approved by the two boards will be sent to members of both associations on June 7

for their consideration and vote. The result of the member balloting is expected to be announced on June 28.

The consolidated association is crafted to be the champion of the newspaper industry and a proactive voice that promotes the value and contributions of newspapers to the communities that they serve.

"The industry has seen a significant change in the last decade," said Doug Phares, this year's president of Inland and co-chair of the merger planning group.

"There has been a migration to larger groups and an exiting of many long-term family owners. It has also seen a seismic shift in the business model and long-held practices have been upended."

Phares said the boards of both associations saw a critical need for an industry association that "provides voice, focus and function equal to the challenges of our new reality."

PJ Browning, the current president of SNPA, said that the boards were also mindful of the culture and history that has attracted loyal and engaged members to both associations for more than 100 years.

"While we are proposing a new association with a new focus, we are also committed to preserving the networking, the camarade-

rie, and the idea-sharing that are hallmarks of SNPA and Inland," Browning said.

Colorado Springs publisher Chris Reen, who co-chaired the merger planning group, outlined the member benefits of the consolidated association:

A new unapologetic and relentless champion for newspapers and a voice for the newspaper industry.

☐ Leadership that fills a significant void in the industry.

☐ Materials and training on how to educate and inform employees and communities about the indispensable value of newspapers and local journalism.

☐ More resource-rich in-person events with a larger pool of

attendees, speakers and vendors, and expanded and improved opportunities for free digital training and idea-sharing.

☐ Industry research and white papers.

☐ Education and discovery on sustainable business models

☐ Enhanced coordination and partnerships with j-schools and other industry organizations.

In anticipation of approval by the membership, the merger planning group has engaged an attorney to prepare legal documents and filings, a marketing/branding firm to work on naming and messaging, and a company to conduct a national search for a CEO to lead the new association.

Inland, based in Chicago, has more than 1,200 newspaper and R&D members.

Atlanta-based SNPA, founded in 1903, includes more 500 print and digital newspaper members and nearly 60 R&D partners that supply goods and services to the newspaper industry.

Inland president Doug Phares said the boards of both associations saw a critical need for an industry association that 'provides voice, focus and function equal to the challenges of our new reality.'

2019-20 KPA BOARD

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MAY KDAN, KCAN WINNERS

The following newspapers sold either direct placement, Kansas Display Ad, Kansas Classified Ad or out-of-state network ads in May.

If you sell a KDAN or KCAN, which run in almost 150 Kansas newspapers, you keep half the money. Sell outside of Kansas (SDAN or SCAN) or do direct placement in other papers and keep half the commission allowed to KPA.

KDAN — Rural Messenger, five ads sold for a profit of \$2,140; Oberlin Herald, one ad for a profit of \$450; Anderson County Review, two ads for a profit of \$1,650; Marion County Record, one ad sold for a profit of \$450.

KCAN — Anthony Republican, one ad sold for a profit of \$150.

DIRECT PLACEMENT — Hays Daily News.

Sales prevention department ... do you have one?

Every business has procedures in need of tweaking. Do any of those procedures at your newspaper involve the advertising department? It might be a good idea to take a look.

I remember a Monday night long ago when my cable TV stopped working. I called the customer service line and went through the frustrating process of getting a real person on the line. That person was nice, but said they couldn't do anything about my cable until Thursday. Between Monday and Thursday, I received at least six automated messages to remind me of the appointment.



John Foust

On Thursday, I made plans to be home to meet the service tech. When he arrived, he quickly determined that the cable box needed to be replaced. He retrieved a new box from his truck and installed it in a couple of minutes. Then the real trouble started. He couldn't activate the box until he received authorization from the cable company. As he explained it, the box which he had just connected to the TV had to be transferred in their records from the company's inventory to his truck's inventory to my TV. He submitted that request, but they couldn't

make the switch right away because he had to wait his turn.

He was a nice fellow. As we sat in the kitchen and waited, he talked about his work, his family and his children's interests. Along the way, he mentioned that he liked his job, but that he spent most of his time waiting for the home office to authorize the equipment he installed.

After an hour of waiting, I tried to help by placing a call to customer service. When I eventually got someone on the line, I explained the problem and handed the phone to the technician. The customer service rep said she would look into the problem. But after more waiting, the tech decided to call another technician to see if he had a cable box that had already gone through an inventory switch. The new tech showed up a little later, and luckily that box worked.

The end result was that he was there for three hours to do twenty minutes of work, he was over an hour late for his next appointment, and -- worst of all -- he said it was an ordinary day.

The story doesn't end there. About an

hour after the technician left, I received another automated phone call to remind me of the appointment.

Everyone I encountered was genuinely concerned about my problem, but they were limited by a faulty internal system.

I'm reporting this experience in excruciating detail to illustrate the negative chain of events that can result from a flawed process. I've run across some newspapers with similar system defects. In fact, I once heard of an office that had such a stringent credit process that people referred to it as the "sales prevention department."

The challenge is to find problems and fix them. If you do that, you'll become a customer service hero.

John Foust has conducted training programs for thousands of newspaper advertising professionals. Many are using his training videos to save time and get quick results from in-house training. E-mail for information at john@johnfoust.com.

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Lawhorn is newest KPA board member

Chad Lawhorn, editor and publisher of the Lawrence Journal-World, is the newest member of the Kansas Press Association Board of Directors and will serve as daily director.

At the Journal-World, Lawhorn succeeded Scott Stanford, who accepted a promotion to Fort Wayne, Ind., within the Ogden Newspapers organization.

Lawhorn has been with the Journal-World since 2001. He has served as a reporter, managing editor and editor during his time at the company, which in addition to publishing the Journal-World also operates LJWorld.com, KUports.com, the Tonganoxie Mirror and other ventures.

Prior to joining the Journal-World, Lawhorn served as the editor and publisher of The Baldwin Ledger and the Lawrence Business Ledger and owned the parent company of those two weekly newspapers. He joined the Journal-World

after selling those publications to the Journal-World.

Lawhorn oversees news, advertising, circulation and all other operations of the Journal-World. Lawhorn said he will continue to write for the newspaper and LJWorld.com website.



Chad Lawhorn

"I'm looking forward to the new role, but always will remain committed to serving as a journalist," he said. "I think the journalistic process is badly needed in a world that produces a lot of conflicting and confusing information. I feel fortunate to be in a community that appreciates journalism and the positive role it can play in a community."

Lawhorn is a fourth-generation Kansan and a native of Melvern in Osage County.

He is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Journalism. He and his wife, Kristine, live in Eudora with their two children.

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We need to help separate the wheat from the chaff

For about three years now, we've been bombarded with the phrase, "fake news."

It is overused and misapplied, since most of the time "fake news" is being applied to actual news, based on verifiable facts, that one public figure or another just doesn't like or refuses to believe.

There is plenty of fake news out there, most of it in the digital world where facts are not verified, sources are made up and there is little to help the public distinguish legitimate news from the overwhelming amount of garbage coming in from all over the globe.

There is a new phrase that we will be hearing through 2019 and 2020, especially as the election gets closer, and that is "deepfake."

This came up recently in a couple different ways. The first was a doctored video of U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, appearing drunk. It was quickly and widely discredited by most major news organizations.

Then came a deepfake video of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. It was posted to Instagram, and was the work of a group of artists and machine learning engineers, according to a story by Vice. Its aim was to criticize Facebook and how it handles fake videos as well as artistic

criticism.

We are entering a truly scary period. The deceptive Facebook pages and fake news stories of the 2016 election campaign could soon look like amateur hour.

It will be interesting to see how all this plays out. Facebook marked the Zuckerberg video as satire, which means there is a warning that it is not a real video but its reach was not impacted.

But Instagram – owned by Facebook – downranked the video, according to the Vice story I read. The fact that two arms of the same company were in disagreement over this video illustrates the complexity of the issue.

The line between critical commentary/art and political manipulation is going to be blurred even more, as well. With deepfake videos, we might have to discern creators' intent, because the final product of a legitimate criticism and that of a political attack could essentially be the same.

Once again, it will be up to print journalism to do most of the legwork in separating truth from fiction. That's not the job of most of our community journalists in Kansas, but we all have a role to play.

Despite the various headwinds out there facing papers of different sizes, our commitment to finding the best possible ver-

sion of the truth still matters. The battles between President Trump and papers like the New York Times and Washington Post have simultaneously given us more credit with some segments of our audience, and less credit with others.

But starting in our hometowns – with readers who are our neighbors and friends,

our fellow members in civic groups, who sit by us in church and at school functions – we have an opportunity to prove on a daily basis that our reporting is fair and factual. We do it with accurate quotes, with fairness on divisive issues and

with clarity between our news stories and our opinion pieces.

Telling fact from fiction has often been challenging. There are plenty of people who don't want a full story getting out. They benefit from keeping the public in the dark.

As time moves forward, and the election draws nearer, the job of separating real news from fake news will get even harder.

If we don't take on this job, who will?

Travis Mounts is president of the Kansas Press Association for 2019-20 and managing editor and co-owner of *Times-Sentinel Newspapers*, based in Sedgwick and Sumner counties.



Travis Mounts

Telling fact from fiction has often been challenging. There are plenty of people who don't want a full story getting out. They benefit from keeping the public in the dark.

Protest

Continued from Page 1

broad," said ACLU Kansas spokesman Mark McCormick. "The state's position gives individual state officials extraordinary power and oversight over every square foot of the Statehouse as well as over every inch of ground it rests on."

K-State students Jonathan Cole, Katie Sullivan and Nathan Fafflick are plaintiffs in the case. They joined Topeka Rev. Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan in unfurling banners 24 feet tall and 10 feet wide from the four corners of the Statehouse rotunda in a March 27 demonstration. The banners declared GOP leaders had "blood on their hands."

Capitol Police Officer Scott Whitsell detained the students, told them they were banned from the Statehouse for a year and threatened them with a criminal trespass charge if they returned. A day later, Whit-

sell's supervisor rescinded the one-year ban.

The ACLU said the brief ban has a chilling effect on anyone seeking to demonstrate at the Capitol in the future, particularly since rules allow Capitol Police, a division of the highway patrol, to expel a visitor for any violation. The students want to continue to voice their support for Medicaid expansion at the Statehouse but risk arrest if they return, the ACLU said.

The ACLU's legal action served as a backdrop to a May 29 protest, when Oglesby-Dunegan and eight others began singing and shouting in the public seating area overlooking the Senate, bringing proceedings to a halt.

Police delayed taking action for 20 minutes, until Senate President Susan Wagle's staff, at Whitsell's urging, threatened to revoke floor passes for news reporters if they didn't leave. Lawmakers, their aides, Statehouse staff members and others were allowed to stay on the floor. After the reporters were

out of sight, police removed the protestors.

Reporters were allowed to return when Senate proceedings resumed, but doors were closed to the public viewing area in a possible violation of open meetings law. Wagle said she wanted to prevent further disruptions.

The Topeka Capital-Journal joined the Kansas Sunshine Coalition, Kansas Press Association and others in lodging a complaint with the Kansas Attorney General's office over the handling of the May protest.

Stephen Wade, senior group publisher for GateHouse Media Kansas, which includes The Capital-Journal, said the decision to remove news reporters was "disappointing and disgraceful."

McCormick, the ACLU Kansas spokesman, said the response to the May protest further demonstrates the need to reshape guidelines for police "to limit their authority to eject or ban citizens from the Statehouse for engaging in First Amendment activity."

UPDATES FROM KPA

Non-profit status achieved; will save KPA on expenses

While we're not sure yet of all the ramifications, the Kansas Press Association has applied for and been granted non-profit status.

Years ago, we had the non-profit Kansas Press Association and the for-profit Kansas Press Service, the advertising placement arm of KPA.

They were combined in the late 1990s and KPA has been operating like a non-profit but filing taxes as a for-profit corporation because the association and advertising functions were all under the KPA.

"This new status will reportedly save us several thousand dollars on the sale

of our building," said Emily Bradbury, KPA executive director. "Other than that, we're looking for other efficiencies to take advantage of the non-profit status."

Building sale progresses; closing set for late July

The sale of the Kansas Press Association is planned for closing in late July.

The association's board of directors decided last year to put the building on the market because of its size, more than 8,000 square feet, was far more than needed.

Not only will the association be able to invest the money from the sale to help fund future association benefits, but the savings on every day expenses should more

than pay for a new office location once the association completes its one-year free lease from the new owner.

Another Adobe webinar set; last one drew 40 KPA participants

The second seminar on Adobe suite software is scheduled at 11 a.m. July 18 with Kevin Slimp again making the presentation.

It is underwritten by the Kansas Press Association, so participation is free for KPA member newspapers.

This 100-minute seminar is a must-do for those using InDesign and wanting to develop shortcuts and other tricks to take advantage of the software.

[Here is a link](#) to the registration form.



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Want to sharpen up the look of your house ads? We've got the solution. We've got professionally produced ads that will help you sell the quality of your newspaper and how important it is to your readers. We've

got them in all kinds of sizes, with the KPA logo and without so you can add your own if you wish. To download these PDFs to use in your newspaper, go to: <http://kspress.com/267/keep-reading-campaign>

MARKETPLACE

NEWS

MANAGING EDITOR — The Osage County Herald-Chronicle has an opening for a full-time managing editor or a news editor with management experience. Knowledge and proficiency of AP style is preferred. Excellent opportunity to work with award-winning staff at 3,500 circulation weekly in Osage City. Position includes covering governmental and school board meetings, writing features, editing and proofreading copy, taking photos and managing the day-to-day influx of emails. Experience with page layout on Mac-based Adobe InDesign is a plus. Some evening and weekend hours. Send resume with cover letter to Chris or Catherine Faimon, faimonc@gmail.com, or P.O. Box A, Burlington, KS 66839. All inquiries kept confidential. (6-18)

HELP WANTED: Part time reporters/paid interns, could turn into full time. The Osage County Herald-Chronicle is accepting applications for a part-time reporter/paid intern to cover evening city council and school board meetings in several towns within Osage County. Also wanting coverage of occasional weekend events (take photos mainly). Get paid by the story. Applicant should be able to demonstrate ability to write, report accurately, work independently and adhere to set deadlines. Photography skills are a plus. Please submit resume and writing samples (if available) to: Catherine Faimon, The Osage County Herald-Chronicle, P.O. Box 266, Osage City, KS 66523 or email to faimonc@gmail.com. (6-18)

REPORTER -The Wichita Business Journal is searching for a reporter who can build a list of strong sources, break news, write sophisticated and impactful cover stories and own their beats. Candidates should be able to mine data for stories, use social media as a reporting tool and make connections with the Wichita business community. This person will relish the opportunity to scoop the competition daily, online and in print. The Wichita Business Journal is an award-winning, highly respected source of business news in Wichita and south-central Kansas. The WBJ and its 40+ sister publications are part of American City Business Journals, the No. 1 source for local business news in the nation. Contact Editor-in-Chief Bill Roy: broy@bizjournals.com. (5-25)

REPORTER - The Iola Register is look-

Are your ads still timely?

The Marketplace Page is how we tell each other about job openings, newspapers for sale and miscellaneous items for sale.

Ads on this page that have run for more than six months (except for newspapers for sale) are removed. Please resubmit if jobs are still open.

Please review the remaining ads on this page and indicate to ebradbury@kspress.com if they are still timely.

ing for a reporter with strong writing skills and intrigued by what makes small town America click. Your beat would be wide-ranging, from play reviews to county commission. And if you like sports, we could always use help during basketball and football. A journalism degree or newsroom experience is preferred. The Iola Register is published five days a week with a thriving web presence. It is the only daily in the county with a wide reach. We are family-owned for five generations and a consistent winner in Kansas Press Association's annual competitions. For 2018, we scored sweepstakes in both editorial and advertising! We pride ourselves on in-depth features and news that help build community. If you like to write, the Register is for you! To view the Register online, visit iolaregister.com. Use "Iola Register" and "guest" to get past the paywall. The Register is a friendly place to work and Iola a great place to live. Located in Southeast Kansas, Iola is the hub for an expanding network of rail trails used for biking, running and recreation. We are 90 minutes from either Kansas City, Lawrence or Topeka. Iola is the county seat, has an outstanding fine arts center, a community college, a strong industrial base and a thriving non-profit sector. Along with cover letter please include a resume, digital portfolio, and references and send to susan@iolaregister.com. Starting pay with no experience is \$35,000. Those with experience will be compensated accordingly. Health and dental insurance and 401k retirement plan included. (3-22)

REPORTER - If you are an eager, hungry journalist with feet planted firmly in both the old-school print as well as the digital and social media worlds, the Great Bend Tribune, a sweepstakes award-winning daily, is looking for you. We need someone in our newsroom with a nose for news and the stories behind the stories. They must be

reliable, accurate while being great communicators comfortable with the diverse platforms used by newspapers today. Job entails beat reporting, updating social media sites, and creating news content the Tribune and its special sections. If this fits you and you want to be a part of our news team, please send letter, writing samples, resume and references to Dale Hogg, managing editor, Great Bend Tribune, 2012 Forest Ave., Great Bend, Kan., 67530, or to dhogg@gbtribune.com. (3-20)

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR, Ponca City (OK) News — Salary: commensurate with experience. Job Description: Historic, newly-acquired newspaper poised for significant growth and expansion is seeking an advertising director to hire, develop and lead (by example) an advertising team. A passion for serving our advertising partners, our community, and the team is required. An ability to develop and execute creative advertising programs, promotions and specials that produce results for our business community is crucial. A laser-like focus on revenue growth is a must. Email your resume and strong references to josh@poncacitynews.com for immediate consideration. (6-18)

GROUP ADVERTISING DIRECTOR - A newspaper group in Kansas, has an opening for a person who can fill the role of Group Advertising Director. We are looking for a person who can successfully lead staff and sales teams in multiple locations. This person will oversee sales of daily and weekly newspapers covering communities in Emporia, Abilene, Chase County, Madison, and St. Marys, Kansas. This person must have the ability to work productively in a team setting and lead them. The person should have strong selling skills, and experience with multimedia and social media selling. We use all mediums to tell our stories and reach customers. Send cover letter, resume with references to Publisher Chris Walker by e-mail at walker@emporia.com (put Sales Director in the subject line), or by mail to 517 Merchant, Emporia Kansas 66801 or fax at (620) 342-4841.

DESIGN

GRAPHIC DESIGNER - The Iola Register is seeking a full-time graphic designer. Must have experience with the Adobe Creative Suite, including InDesign, Photoshop

See **MARKETPLACE** on Page 7

MARKETPLACE/CONT. FROM PAGE 6

and Illustrator. Responsibilities include updating daily classified ad pages. Benefits included. Interested? Email susan@iolaregister.com.

GRAPHIC ARTIST/PAGINATOR/DESIGNER - Creative individual as a full-time paginator/graphic designer. Job involves laying out pages, working with graphics and photos, and updating the website and social media. There may be some reporting duties as well. Involves evening and weekend work. Must be reliable, quick but accurate, and have a keen eye for design and sense for details. If this fits you, please send letter, portfolio, resume and references to Dale Hogg, managing editor, Great Bend Tribune, 2012 Forest Ave., Great Bend, Kan., 67530, or to dhogg@gbtribune.com.

PRODUCTION

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER — This position reports directly to the publisher and will be responsible for directing all aspects of the company's circulation/distribution operations, marketing efforts, and driving overall viewership. Necessary skills in communications, positive coaching and motivation, customer service, organization/coordination, computers including Microsoft Office and social media, and knowledge about local geography with ability to read maps are required. Preference will be given to a candidate with proven leadership in the publishing industry. This is a full-time salaried position with benefits for a small Kansas community publication with home delivery Tuesday-Friday and Sunday. Please send your resume and cover letter to mhoisington@gbtribune.com or Mary Hoisington, Great Bend Tribune, 2012 Forest Ave., Great Bend, KS 67530. (5-1)

PRESS OPERATOR — Accepting resumes for Press Operator at progressive, family-run newspaper in Weatherford, Okla. Experience with Goss Community

press helpful. Attractive compensation and re-location packages. Contact Phillip Reid at 580-772-3301 or email resume to Phillip@PhillipReid.net. (3-27)

NEWSPAPERS FOR SALE

Rawlins County Square Deal weekly newspaper in northwest Kansas. Official city, county and school publication. Only newspaper in county. Strong subscription and advertising base and supportive community. Sale includes building, up-to-date equipment and software, archives and active e-paper. Call 817-805-3600 or email editor@squaredealnews.com for more information.

136 year old weekly newspaper in southeast Kansas. Owner wishing to sell publication, which he has owned for 39 years. Steady subscription base, located in historic Kansas town. Inquire through KPA by emailing ebradbury@kspress.com.

Respected 133-year-old weekly newspaper in Southwest Kansas; only newspaper in the county. Owner moving out of state. Motivated seller. Will include building and property in sale or sell business only. Asking \$105,000. (785) 341-7573 after 5 p.m. MST.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

FOR SALE — Atlas offset press. 2 quad units and four mono units with folder, roll stands and all electrical equipment needed for operation. Also includes bay window to print full color on both sides of one web, plate bender and punch. Comes with conveyor belt and count-o-veyor. Price reduced to \$25,000. Call 620-626-0840 or email earl@hpleader.com

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Forklift clamp with an electrical bypass for rotating rolls. If you have one for sale, please email Mary Hoisington at mhoisington@gbtribune.com. (11-7)

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(for questions on cameras in the courtroom and KORA-KOMA as it relates to the court system)



THIS MONTH'S QUESTION

Q. What is the status of the Kansas Civics Bee?

A. We are in the final stages of the due diligence process to make sure this new initiative fits the Kansas Press Association's mission. We've followed the results of some other states and believe it does because it promotes civic engagement and civic education, two bedrocks of journalism. The tentative date for the first Civics Bee is April 2, 2020, in Wichita just two weeks after our annual convention on March 19-20, 2020, and our Sunflower State Spelling Bee on March 21, 2020.

Changes designed to benefit all KPA members

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus has been quoted as saying “change is the only constant in life.”

The older I get, the more I realize how true this is.

In the past 12 months, my husband and I changed jobs, bought a house, moved, sold a house, guided two kids through a major life/school change and became parents of a teenager.



Emily Bradbury

And we stayed married, which is awesome because I consider it a win that we simply survived.

One thing that I learned during all the crazy is that change often gives you a choice to make. You can let it paralyze you or let it excite you about the possibilities. To be honest, it often does a little of both.

Either way, change lets us see things through a new lens – and our association’s proposed changes are no exception.

As I have mentioned a few times before, we are examining our association from top to bottom. Everything we do is being studied for both usability and feasibility – including our annual convention. After multiple surveys on the subject, we gleaned some insight into what our members want from the annual convention. Here is what we found:

- ☐ Respondents want convention moved from February to, preferably, late March.
- ☐ Respondents prefer to have convention in the Topeka or Wichita area.
- ☐ Respondents prefer to have a 1½ day convention schedule, beginning with a networking event on Thursday night with advertising, editorial and digital sessions running concurrently on Friday with the annual awards of excellence at lunch and everyone on the road home by late afternoon.
- ☐ Respondents support the President’s Banquet and special awards program being held at a time other than at convention.

Using this data, we have made the following adjustments to our Day at the Legislature and annual convention schedule. First, we will continue to have the KPA Day at the Legislature in February of each year.

The 2020 KPA Convention will be held March 19-20, 2020 in Wichita (hotel to be determined).

The 2020 Sunflower State Spelling Bee will be held March 21, 2020 to coincide with the 2020 KPA Convention (we welcome volunteers).

The 2020 President’s Banquet will be renamed the Kansas Press Association President’s Gala and held in the early summer of 2020 in Topeka.

Well, there you have it!

More details are coming soon. We think these changes will benefit you, our members, in a way that will bring even more value to your membership in our association.

If we don’t like it, what’s the worst that can happen? No one will die. We will listen, we will learn and we will change it up ... again.

We won’t stop until we get it right for you, our members. But until then, we are excited about the changes and we hope you are as well.

Emily Bradbury is executive director of the Kansas Press Association.



Participants in last week’s planning session for the Kansas Newspaper Foundation included (from left) Jeannie Eblen, Jim Logback, Jeanny Sharp, Patrick Lowry, Dan Thalmann, Andy Taylor, Joey Young, Linda Denning, Murrel Bland and Robin Wunderlich. Leading the discussion was Emily Bradbury, Kansas Press Association executive director.

KNF goals

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local newspapers involve might enable smaller newspapers to participate. The model for the program is one that the Oklahoma Press Association operates through its foundation.

The newspaper would have some obligations and the student would have to apply

and be willing to serve in a rural community for eight to 10 weeks, Bradbury said.

“The most pressing issue is housing for the students, which can be a significant expense for the newspaper or the intern,” she said. “Our tentative plan is that the newspaper would be required to find housing for the intern. The funding for that expense might come from grants or from the participating newspaper. Once we look into the other potential funding sources besides KNF, we can

make that determination. We want this to be affordable for even the smallest newspapers in Kansas.

The KNF board also looked at its Investment Policy Statement and decided it was time for a review. A subcommittee will work on that.

In addition, a special projects committee will focus on what projects KNF should continue to fund, or not, over the next two to three years.