

# MP MISSOURI PRESS NEWS

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# Your voices are still needed in the Capitol

As 2021 dawns, forgive me as I state the profoundly obvious — 2020's woes didn't magically recede at midnight on New Year's Eve.

COVID-19 restrictions and concerns continue, compounded by a level of political uneasiness.

Shortly into session, the Missouri House closed the week of Jan. 18 due to COVID-19. The Senate remained in session that week which was also a time of high alert as the FBI warned that state capitols could be victim to violent protests during President Biden's inauguration.

So the backdrop of Jefferson City business is, perhaps, one of the most difficult of times for legislators. Still, the business of governing must go on.

And, as is always the case, there are a number of bill filings the MPA is closely tracking. A few of particular note include:

- **SB 408**, sponsored by Sen. Paul Wieland, would allow the State Treasurer to use any method of notification of unclaimed property. Currently, a notice must be published in newspapers of general circulation for two successive weeks. Newspaper notice could be eliminated under this legislation.

- **SB 272**, sponsored by Sen. Angela Mosely, and **HB 402** by Rep. Jay Mosley, bills that would prohibit the state Lottery Commission from publishing identifying information about lottery winners.

- **HB 480**, sponsored by Rep. Phil Christofanelli, establishes the "Cronkite New Voices Act" to

strengthen freedom of the press rights of college and high school students.

- **HB 146**, sponsored by Rep. Bruce DeGroot, and **HB 710**, sponsored by Rep. Trisha Derges, bills that limit public access to court records on CaseNet pertaining to criminal convictions.

As I said, those are just a few. There are more than 90 filed bills currently being monitored by MPA and its lobbying arm, Lathrop GPM. And likely many more to come. Any would have varying degrees of impact on the business of newspapering and journalism if they were to become law.

While some, such as **HB 480**, would positively support the profession, most would have detrimental consequences.

You matter to the success or failure of any these bills.

Legislators listen to their hometown publishers and journalists. And make no mistake, MPA needs your voice to be heard. Our complacency helps

fuel the momentum of a bad bill. Our support or opposition can alter a bill's fate.

So let's ensure we're all communicating with our local representatives now, before we find ourselves in significant battles. Even during the uncertainty of COVID-19 impact, we can place a phone call or set up a Zoom meeting or, when and if possible, visit our legislators when they're in their home offices.

It's my belief that most of our elected officials appreciate the role of a free press — particularly in our rural communities.

Keeping your voices in the mix with each of your legislators helps guide the future of our profession.

*"There are more than 90 filed bills currently being monitored by MPA and its lobbying arm, Lathrop GPM. And likely many more to come."*



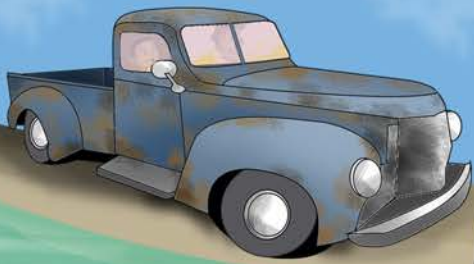
Liz Irwin,  
Missouri Lawyers Media  
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# MILES & THE MONARCHS

By Carolyn Mueller | Illustrated by Philip Goudeau

Missouri Press Foundation and the National Newspaper Association Foundation have once again teamed together to produce an educational serial story free to all newspapers. Titled *Miles and the Monarchs*, this year's serial story follows along with the titular Miles and his father as they learn life lessons and discover the stories behind some of the greatest Negro League Baseball players to ever play the game.

The timing of this year's eight-chapter story is especially serendipitous. Major League Baseball has recently announced that players from the Negro Leagues will be considered Major Leaguers. All 3,400 players, from 1920 to 1948, will be elevated to MLB status. Andrew "Rube" Foster established the Negro National League in 1920, in Kansas City, Mo., making this story particularly relevant and timely. *Miles and the Monarchs* centers on a father and son trip to see the final game of the 1942 Negro League World Series between the Kansas City Monarchs and the Washington-Homestead Grays.

Travel along with Miles and his father as they learn life lessons and meet some of the great Negro League Baseball players in this story.

Visit [mo-nie.com](http://mo-nie.com) and use the **download code: monarchs** to access the Teacher's Guide and all eight chapters.

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# Missouri Press hosts virtual Day at the Capitol

From Missouri Press Staff

*Missouri Press News*

While absent the excitement of walking the venerated halls of the Capitol, steeped in more than a century of legislative history, more than 70 people participated in this year's Day at the Capitol via Zoom.

Each year, Missouri Press Association invites its members to Jefferson City for Day at the Capitol, a chance to meet and discuss with legislators issues that are important to the newspaper industry. This marked the 31st annual event.

But the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, which had actually forced the Missouri House of Representatives to suspend its session for a week in January, meant the dozens of journalists who normally participate would not be allowed in the state Capitol Building or the Governor's Mansion.

Instead, like so many other events over the last year, Day at the Capitol



Missouri Press Association hosted its 31st Annual Day at the Capitol but due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic was forced to hold it virtually this year. Gov. Mike Parson, right, addressed MPA members and other media about various issues, including the state's response to the pandemic, education reform and the proposed Office of Childhood. (Staff screenshots)

was made virtual, held via Zoom and gave many MPA members who cannot attend in person in Jefferson City due to scheduling conflicts the chance to participate.

With the help of Associated Press Capital Correspondent David Lieb, MPA members heard from and were able to ask questions of Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and Gov. Mike Parson.

Ashcroft started the meeting by talking about the aftermath of the November election and his pride in Missouri's election officials. He said the state runs its election well, people know they are run well and that builds trust in voters to actually participate in elections.

As for a national standard for voter registration, Ashcroft said he did not agree with such a plan and thinks states should adopt a process that works for them.

"I generally do not agree that the federal government can create a one-size-fits-all plan," Ashcroft said. "We do have some black letter language but in Missouri we leave lots of flexibility to local election authorities."

Ashcroft also said he is "not a fan" of no-excuse absentee voting and believes voting in person is key to keeping elections in Missouri secure.

**Continued on Page 5**



Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, top right, started the 31st Annual Day at the Capitol with remarks about Missouri's election system, including how well local election authorities worked to complete counting in November's general election without any major problems like those seen in other states. He was introduced by Missouri Press Association President Liz Irwin and AP Capital Correspondent David Lieb served as moderator for the Zoom discussion.

# Continued from Page 4: Governor asks for media's help to 'make Missouri better'

Perhaps to newspapers the most disheartening comments Ashcroft made during his presentation concerned publishing the text of ballot issues. In the past he has repeatedly positioned his office against publishing ballot language in newspapers as a way of reducing the costs of the state's elections.

He said unless a solution that newspapers approve of is proposed and adopted, he anticipates publishing requirements will be repealed, a result that will upset many newspapers.

Gov. Parson began by addressing the state's coronavirus pandemic response, including recent reports that Missouri was lagging in its distribution of the COVID-19 vaccination. He added that because of the way information is collected at the national level and then disseminated via reports and dashboards, various states can look better or worse.

He asked the media for their help in making sure the general public

receives accurate, cumulative data to show "the real picture of what's going on in Missouri."

Parson also said there should be some retrospective to how the coronavirus pandemic was handled, especially regarding local health orders that forced many businesses, particularly restaurants and bars, to temporarily shut down, change how they operate or in some cases, close completely.

When asked if he would support some form of rebating property taxes for businesses that were forced to close because of the health orders during the pandemic, he said he would.

"If government is going to want you to have a license, if they're going to want you to pay taxes on that business, there should be an adjustment to it if they haven't allowed you to operate," Parson said. "That [property tax break] option should be looked at to see what we can do to make that

business whole if it was government that intruded on them making a living."

After touching on several issues MPA members asked about, including sports betting, education reform, rural broadband and violent crime, Parson made an appeal to attendees to help him work to make Missouri a better place to live.

"I would like to see us work together to make the state better," Parson said. "I think for the betterment of the state I wish we could find ways that take the politics out a little bit more, take the bias out a little bit more, and I know it's going to happen, but the reality of it is I think we could do so much working together to make Missouri better."

To see a full recording of the meeting with Ashcroft and Parson, please visit <http://bit.ly/3orScqa>

Gov. Parson's portion begins around the 33 minute mark of the video.

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## USPS issues trouble Missouri newspapers

### For Missouri Press News

In the new year particular attention is being paid to the United States Postal Service, the essential delivery mechanism on which many newspapers rely, including those in Missouri.

Concerns about the USPS stem from two separate issues, one an increase in package volume and staffing shortages caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and the second an order from the Postal Regulatory Commission that eliminates the limit on postal rate increases for periodicals, such as newspapers.

The PRC's order allows USPS to increase postage charged to newspapers by about 9 percent each year over the next five years, according to the News Media Alliance. Since 2006, NMA says a Congressional mandate has provided newspapers with smaller, predictable rate increases.

News Media Alliance, which has joined the National Newspaper Association in a legal challenge to the PRC's order, said such rate changes are unsustainable and could force many newspapers, particularly those in smaller markets, to close.

In a statement from NNA Chair Brett Wesner, he

explained the decision to sue was not made lightly but because the law doesn't explicitly give the PRC the authority to eliminate the statutory price cap established in 2006, it became necessary to turn to the courts for a ruling.

### Delivery delays

Exasperating many newspapers' frustrations over the last year have been the delays experienced from the increase in package volume the USPS has experienced due to the coronavirus pandemic. At the same time, staffing shortages at many processing and distribution centers have resulted in delivery delays.

Newspapers from all over Missouri have reported some level of delivery problems and delays stemming from the USPS' distribution centers, including those in St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield. Publisher continue to ask readers for patience and understanding as delivery issues continue.

USPS has previously reported its package volume during the coronavirus pandemic was on average with numbers it usually sees during the peak holiday shopping season. As the pandemic continues, the agency anticipates volume to remain high, even as it expedites working through the backlog of undelivered mail.

# Get to know Gary Castor, MPA's newest board member

By Matthew Barba  
*Missouri Press News*

With nearly 40 years in journalism, Gary Castor's foundation in the profession stems from the guidance and motivation he received from his earliest teachers and professors.

One of Missouri Press Association's new Board members for 2020, Gary is currently serving a one-year term as secretary of the MPA Board of Directors. He took office on Jan. 1.

Castor is managing editor of the *Jefferson City News Tribune*, a daily newspaper part of Central Missouri Newspapers, Inc. He joined CMNI in 2008 as a niche publications editor responsible for development of special publications and a year later was named managing editor of the *News Tribune*, the *Fulton Sun* and *California Democrat*.

While a 1983 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, his roots in journalism go back even further to his earliest days in school.

"The kindness and encouragement of teachers through elementary and high schools, as well as at Mizzou, assured me I was on the right path with journalism," he said. "By challenging and championing my writing, teachers at my very rural junior high and high schools fueled my pursuits of a journalism degree."

In college, Castor credits professors like Brian Brooks, Daryl Moen and Hal Lister as helping to really hone his skills, as well as instill an appreciation in the power of the medium and a true love of community newspapers.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, he was often excited to share that love with the community, including hosting events that brought other manufacturers into the *News*

*Tribune's* printing plant to witness what many call the "daily miracle."

"The actions and pulse of the community and the creative and hard work of the newspaper's staff work together to become this vibrant, relevant, unique creation daily," he said. "Pre-pandemic, we would host community events in which folks from other area manufacturers would come to watch our production cycle. It simply blew their minds as they realized the product that we produced daily evolved throughout the day and into the night."

Castor's love for the profession remains strong, though, and it was the impetus for joining the MPA Board of Directors.

"I'm as bullish as I've ever been on the profession and its critical role in our democracy. But just as a daily newspaper edition evolves throughout the day, our future as a profession is evolving," he said. "Our success — individually and collectively — will depend upon using all available resources and creativity to meet the need of the community to be informed."

As a resource and networking organization, MPA can be indispensable to member newspapers, Castor said, giving them the tools needed to face journalism's current challenges, such as rebuilding community trust in the media.

"Community journalism must be grounded in a foundation of trust and civility within the community and with newspapers," Castor said. "As a community, we have to arrive at a place where civil conversations can happen in an atmosphere of respect and empathy and with a desire to improve our society."

"Newspapers should be the vehicle to get us to that destination of a more perfect union. But at this time, the community doesn't trust us enough to believe that we know the way to that destination or that we don't have our own agenda or map that we are following," he said.

When he isn't working to rebuild trust in the community, Castor likes to put his hands to use building something more tangible. "I possess just enough carpentry skills to fake some level of proficiency," he said.

The greatest use of his passable carpentry skills was the more than 25 years he spent as a construction team leader for high school mission trips. Most recently, he worked on a project with a more personal purpose.

"The most recent use of the skills was to build a small cabin almost single-handedly," Castor said. "And it's still standing!"

Castor was elected to the Board of Directors during MPA's 154th Annual Convention, originally scheduled to be held in Jefferson City but moved online because of the coronavirus pandemic.



Gary Castor



Gary Castor, left, talks with Missouri Gov. Mike Parson at the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City during Missouri Press Association's 2020 Day at the Capitol. Jefferson City News Tribune photographer Julie Smith, right foreground, captures the moment for the newspaper. (Staff photo/Matthew Barba)



# TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

## DEADLINES APPROACHING



Nominations are being taken now for the top awards of the  
Missouri Press Association and Foundation:

### Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame

#### Outstanding Young Journalist

*Nominations must be in by March 31*

### Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame

*Nominations must be in by May 11*

**DOWNLOAD NOMINATION FORMS AT**

**[bit.ly/MoPressForms](http://bit.ly/MoPressForms)** (case sensitive)

Each of the nomination forms includes the criteria for selection.  
Contact Matthew Barba by phone at 573-449-4167, ext. 302, or  
by email at [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com) with questions.



## Applications for the Internship Grants Program must be received on or before April 20.

If your newspaper is interested in applying for an internship grant,  
please go to [mopress.com/missouri-press-foundation-internships](http://mopress.com/missouri-press-foundation-internships)

If you have questions about the Internship Program,  
please contact Michael Harper at 913-547-1186  
or by email at [mharper@mopress.com](mailto:mharper@mopress.com)





**New Madrid** — *The Weekly Record*, formerly owned by Ed and Linda Thomason, has been acquired by Rust Communications as part of that company's nearby *Sikeston Standard Democrat* newspaper. The Thomasons retired from newspaper ownership on Jan. 1.

The New Madrid newspaper will be integrated into the *Standard Democrat*, which began with the Jan. 19 issue. At least two pages in every Wednesday's *Standard Democrat* will be designated as *The Weekly Record* and include as much New Madrid information as possible.

The *Standard Democrat* will continue to cover New Madrid in its Friday and weekend editions.

Plans also include maintaining a local office in New Madrid.

**Wildwood** — The *Eureka Leader* announced in January it was expanding its coverage area to include portions of the Wildwood area, specifically Grover and Pond. It is the second time the Leader Publications has expanded into St. Louis County, with the first being the *Eureka Leader* about four years ago.

Editor Tony Krausz said the newspaper will pursue stories of interest in the new coverage area but also encouraged readers to share their thoughts on what they want in a hometown newspaper. He also stressed the newspaper will continue to cover Eureka without any changes.

**Kansas City** — The *Kansas City Star* announced it is removing references to its founder and first

publisher, William Rockhill Nelson, from the newspaper's pages and its website because of his role in supporting segregationist policies in the city.

The decision to de-emphasize Nelson stems from an examination of the newspaper's past, including its coverage of Black communities and residents. The newspaper's reporting also often ignored segregation in the city and in its public schools.

"It became really obvious that we needed to make a change," said Colleen McCain Nelson, vice president and editorial page editor for *The Star*. "We hold him up as a beacon of sorts. And it felt like we were hitting a wrong note by continuing to do that when we had just reported how he contributed to racism in Kansas City."

## Get the Capitol Report directly on your website

### From Missouri Press Staff

A new widget for your website, developed in partnership between the Reynolds Journalism Institute and the Missouri School of Journalism, will collect Capitol Report articles in one place and rotate them on a regular basis, giving readers access to the most up-to-date stories.

Utilizing the widget on your website will depend on your content management system but should be as easy as placing a "block" for raw HTML, then copy-pasting the necessary code there.

If this sounds confusing to you, Missouri Press staff will be happy to assist in any way we can.

With the widget live on your website, when a reader clicks on a story a separate window will open to display the story they selected, as well as others in the gallery. The best part about the widget is when a reader is done with a

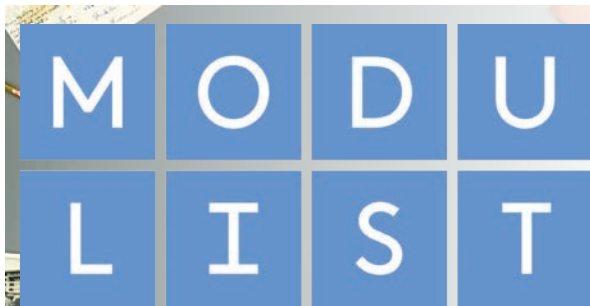
story in it, simply exiting the window that opened will take them back to the newspaper's website.

To test the widget yourself, visit [mopress.com](http://mopress.com) and scroll down to near the bottom of the front page or MPA's legislative resources page. The section titled, "State Government News" is how the widget will look and operate on your website.

As more newspapers adopt the widget, Missouri Press Service plans to sell sponsored content or other ads into the widget.

Revenue generated from this advertising will be shared with the MPA member hosting the widget and the provider of the stories.

To learn more about the widget and/or to receive the code for your website, please contact Matthew Barba at [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com)



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# OBITUARIES



## St. Louis

### Jerry Berger

Gerald Allen Berger, 87, a former columnist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, died Jan. 5, 2021, at a hospital in Coral Springs, Fla. While he had survived several bouts of cancer over the last decade, a recent broken leg caused his health to decline rapidly.

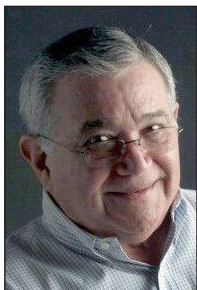
Berger was a columnist for more than 35 years, the one St. Louis readers turned to for their daily fix of gossip. He defined gossip as, "That which runs ahead of news all wrapped up in satin ribbons," but preferred to be known as a "saloon columnist or people columnist" to avoid gossip's normal implications of "hearsay."

Before becoming a columnist, he worked management and publicity

for several St. Louis theaters. He was then hired by 20th Century Fox as publicity manager in parts of Africa. Between Fox and later Paramount Pictures, he had the chance to rub elbows with some of the world's biggest stars.

Deciding to "come home," Berger became publicity manager of St. Louis' Muny Opera where he stayed until joining the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* in 1978. In 1984, he joined the *Post-Dispatch* after Joseph Pulitzer Jr. gave his blessing, where he remained until publishing his last column in March 2004.

Berger is survived by his husband, Victor Isart, of Coral Springs, Fla.; and many friends.



## Forest City

### Billie Jo Ripley

Wilma Josephine "Billie Jo" (Reynolds) Ripley, 89, of Forest City, died Jan. 1, 2021, at the Oregon Care Center.

In addition to being very involved in her community over the years, Ripley worked for the *Mound City News-Independent*.

From there she was employed with the *Plattsmouth, Nebr. Journal* and *Maryville Daily Forum* in the advertising department. When her father was diagnosed with cancer, she returned home to Forest City to provide care for him.

After her father's death, she and her son purchased the Times Observer newspaper in Oregon. Their first edition came off the presses on June 1, 1989, where she held the title of publisher. Her pride and joy was a quarterly edition called "Country Roads," a feature section on current times, historical times and other items of interest. She retired on her 80th birthday in 2012.

She is survived by her children, Robert and Dee Ann; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and many more family and friends.



## Kansas City

### Pam Johnson

Pamela Jean Johnson, 74, of Journalism Institute at the Missouri Overland Park, Kan., died Jan. 20, 2021, after a long illness. School of Journalism. She retired in 2011.

Johnson was a lifelong journalist whose interest in the profession was solidified by a part-time job at *The Joplin Globe* during her college years. After graduating from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, she worked at a variety of newspapers, including the *Kansas City Times* and as assistant managing editor at *The Kansas City Star*.

She moved to Arizona to work for the *Phoenix Gazette* before being promoted to executive editor and senior vice president for the *Arizona Republic*. She left the *Republic* in 2001 and joined the leadership faculty at Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Fla.

In 2004, she returned to Columbia to serve as founding executive director of the Donald W. Reynolds

She was part of the team of reporters from the *Star* and the *Times* that received the Pulitzer Prize in 1982 for their coverage of the Hyatt Hotel skywalk collapse. She also received the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism in 2000 and the Chart Hall of Fame at Missouri Southern State University in 2017.

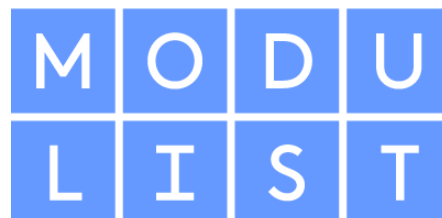
Johnson served as president of the Associated Press Managing Editors and was one of the founding members of Journalism and Women Symposium (JAWS), a group formed to help women in newspapers through networking.

She is survived by her children, Matthew, Brad and Sheila; a sister, Carolyn; four grandchildren; and many more family and friends.



**Help us remember MPA's newspaper people who have died.**

**Send obituaries for Missouri Press News to [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com)**



# Missouri newspapers take editorial stand against insurrection

By Matthew Barba  
*Missouri Press News*

On Jan. 20, Joseph R. Biden became the 46th president of the United States, but the journey to that day left the country divided and many angry at the results of the November general election.

That anger boiled over in early January when a violent mob of far-right extremists attacked the U.S. Capitol Building in an attempt to disrupt the counting of the electoral college vote. Their actions resulted in five deaths, including a Capitol police officer.

Still, the day's events could have been far worse as images captured by photojournalists in the building showed armed insurrectionists equipped with zip tie handcuffs stalking the halls of the people's house looking for politicians they saw as enemies of the country.

Earlier in the day, gallows had been erected on the Capitol Building lawn.

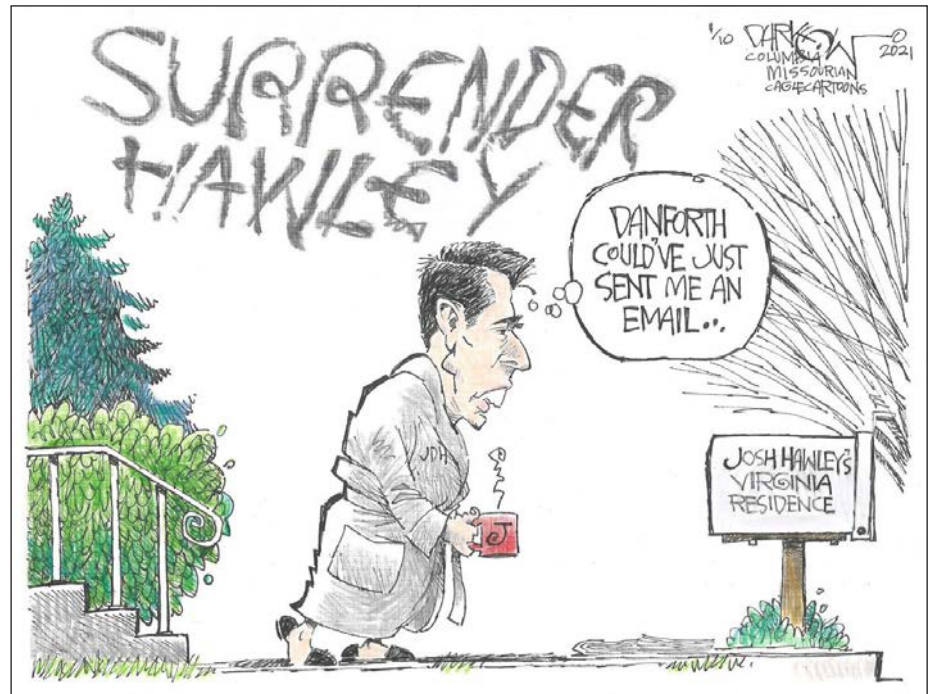
During the mob's intrusion into the Capitol, video captured the insurrectionists' chants to "hang Mike Pence." Vice President Pence was in the Capitol that day upholding his Constitutional duty to oversee the counting of the electoral college votes.

Many small newspapers, even those that do not regularly cover national news, made sure to include some form of coverage in their pages as part of the historical record. Still others took a stronger stance in editorially denouncing the people behind the Jan. 6 attack.

"A terrible day for democracy" is how Phil Conger, former Missouri Press Association president and editor of the *Bethany Republican-Clipper* titled his first editorial following the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Conger's editorial, published a week after the attack, described what many people felt watching those events unfold less than a week into 2021:

"The revulsion that most Americans



A *Columbia Missourian* cartoon by John Darkow references Josh Hawley's loss of support from political mentor and former U.S. Senator John Danforth. In response to Hawley's votes to object to certification of the electoral college vote in November's general election, Danforth said he regrets endorsing Missouri's junior senator. (Submitted/John Darkow, *Columbia Missourian*)

felt at the desecration of their Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., will never be forgotten. The spectacle of thugs breaking down the doors to run amuck through the sacred hallways of Congress was one of the most despicable events that we have ever witnessed.

"The insurrection of Wednesday, Jan. 6, will go down as one of the darkest days in this nation's history," he wrote.

But what led to the attack on the Capitol? Spurring on perpetrators of the violence were politicians from across the country who spread rhetoric questioning the results, security and integrity of the November election, specifically the presidential contest.

Chief among the promoters of the narrative that last year's election was compromised or somehow conducted dishonestly was Missouri's Sen. Josh Hawley, who was joined in objecting to the electoral college count in

Congress by five of Missouri's eight Representatives.

Hawley's actions have drawn criticism from fellow lawmakers, national media outlets and some Missouri newspapers, including the two biggest dailies, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *The Kansas City Star*, which have called for his resignation and other punitive actions.

At the *Richmond News*, editor Jack "Miles" Ventimiglia ran news and commentary on the Capitol attack, including penning an editorial decrying the actions of those involved in the assault on American democracy last month as shameful.

Titled, "In a word ... SHAME," the editorial calls out everyone from those in charge of security who either did not or would not do enough to secure the Capitol Building to Hawley, who "raised his fist in unity with the insurrectionists."

**Continued on Page 11**



## ON THE MOVE



**New Madrid** — Ed Thomason, *The Weekly Record's* longtime "ed"-itor, announced his retirement from the newspaper business effective Jan. 1. He owned the New Madrid newspaper with his wife Linda for the last 14 years.

Thomason said he never missed a deadline and planned to keep his last one. He was heavily involved in Southeast Missouri Press Association.

*The Weekly Record* will be kept alive in an altered form as part of the *Sikeston Standard Democrat*.

**Trenton** — Ronda Lickteig, pronounced "Lick-tie," became the *Trenton Republican-Times's* new editor at the beginning of the year. She has been a news writer for the newspaper for 28 years and is looking forward to

the challenges that being editor will bring.

Lickteig said her goal is to ensure the newspaper is exceptional from front to back by focusing on the people, places and issues of Grundy County; engaging with the community; and having a robust and interesting online presence.

Lickteig replaces Diane Lowrey as editor of the *Republican-Times*.

**Columbia** — Jim Van Nostrand, executive editor of the *Daily Tribune* and a recently elected member of the Missouri Press Association Board of Directors, announced in January



he was leaving the newspaper to become executive editor at the *Missoulian* in Missoula, Mont. Van Nostrand said he decided to make the move because doing so will put

him close to family and friends he has in his hometown in eastern Washington state.

Van Nostrand said *Tribune*-owner Gannett plans to hire a replacement for him. In the interim, sports editor Kevin Graeler would be serving as the newspaper's editor. Prior to leaving the *Tribune*, Van Nostrand also oversaw many of Gannett's other newspaper's in Missouri.

## Continued from Page 10: *Politically divisive*

That Hawley grew up about a dozen miles from Richmond in Lexington is also mentioned in the editorial that calls the state's junior senator a "divider" and suggests he resign for enabling the insurrection.

The *Richmond News* also published multiple political cartoons, including one that labeled Hawley as "The Insurrection Senator."

Conger called Hawley's fist pump to encourage the insurrectionists a "disgraceful demonstration by a politician whose ambitions know no bounds. He obviously was attempting to drum up support among the Trump voters for a future presidential campaign, perhaps in 2024. At the time the Capitol was under siege, Senator Hawley was sending out text messages to supporters asking for political donations."

In November, former Pres. Donald Trump won the state by more than 15 percent of the vote and Hawley still sees much support from Republicans.

His support, however, did appear to slip in the days following the Capitol riot, with various polls showing him losing up to 10 percent approval rating, even among the

state's red voters.

In Conger's case, he signed his editorial as a "lifelong Republican" and invited readers to submit letters to the editor with their own views.

"So far I haven't received any negative reaction, but I fully expect it from a county that has overwhelmingly supported Trump," Conger said. "I did receive a note from a retired Baptist minister who thanked me for the editorial."

Despite the calls for him to do so, Hawley has indicated he will not resign. He has said his objections to the electoral college results stemmed from concerns by his constituents about the integrity of the November general election.

A December 2020 joint statement from the Election Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council Executive and the members of the Election Infrastructure Sector Coordinating Council affirmed the security and integrity of the election.

The statement included the following: "The November 3rd election was the most secure in American history. There is no evidence that any voting system deleted or lost votes, changed votes, or was in any way compromised."

**Is everyone at your newspaper getting Missouri Press' emails?**

**To get on the mailing list or to let Missouri Press know about staff changes, contact Matthew Barba at [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com)**

# Changes to 2021 BNC include new category for COVID coverage

## From Missouri Press Staff

*Missouri Press News*

Two new categories have been added for the Missouri Press Foundation 2021 Better Newspaper Contest, which runs through Wednesday, March 31.

Members of the Missouri Press Contest Committee discussed changes to the BNC in early January and approved adding a new category related to members' coverage of COVID-19 and the coronavirus pandemic.

The new category reads:

### **BEST COVID-19 COVERAGE**

Limit one entry per newspaper of three issues that include coverage of COVID-19, the coronavirus pandemic and/or the pandemic's effects on the newspaper's coverage area. Award goes to the newspaper. Separate categories for Weeklies and Dailies. Entries should be comprised of any 3 issues from the period March through December.

Judging criteria: All 3 issues are to be judged as one body of work. Consistent quality coverage of the pandemic; features, editorials and columns; photos and artwork; presentation.

Only one category related to the coronavirus pandemic was added, according to Missouri Press Editor Matthew Barba, because committee members felt so much of newspapers' coverage in 2020 was already related to the disease.

"Committee members felt like some more traditional categories, such as Best News Story and Best Breaking

News Story among others would have fewer entries as newspapers prioritize the new categories with their 2020 COVID-19 coverage," Barba said.

Another concern for the committee was ensuring there are enough judges for all of Missouri Press' categories. Each year, the MPA staff works with another state's press association to ensure both states' contests have an adequate number of judges and adding more categories can exhaust an already limited supply of people interested in judging.

The 2021 BNC also includes a second new category related to election coverage by dailies.

The new category reads:

### **BEST COVERAGE OF ELECTIONS (DAILIES)**

Limited to Dailies. An entry consists of a story, series, editorials, analysis, photographs, etc., about any election affecting the newspaper's coverage area. Entries should be comprised of any 3 consecutive news sections. Limit 2 entries. Awards go to the newspaper.

Judging criteria: Enterprise; quality coverage that goes beyond routine election reporting.

Other changes for the 2021 BNC include removing language in Categories 25 (**Best Business Coverage**) and 28 (**Best Coverage of Rural Life or Agriculture**)

regarding the time frame for entries. The new categories do not require entries be from specific issues, but they now stipulate that entries cannot include content from special sections.

The 2021 BNC will also continue allowing each contestant two free entries, as well as implementing a reduced fee structure for greater numbers of entries.

### **For example:**

- If your publication submits a total of 10 entries, the total entry fee cost will be \$56, broken down as two free entries and eight entries at \$7 each.

- If your publication submits 11 entries, the total cost will be \$47.25, broken down as two free entries and nine entries at \$5.25 each.

- If your publication submits 51 entries, your total cost will be \$245, broken down as two free entries and 49 entries at \$5 each.

The deadline for the 2021 Better Newspaper Contest is 11 p.m. Wednesday, March 31. No extensions to the deadline are planned for this year's contest, so be sure to enter early.

If you need help entering any category, including those that previously required mailed-in entries, contact Matthew Barba (mbarba@mopress.com) or Kristie Fortier (kfortier@mopress.com) for assistance.



## Judging help needed for student contests

### From Missouri Press Staff

Because of some administrative changes with the Texas Press Association newspaper contest, Missouri Press Association will NOT be asked to judge another Better Newspaper Contest this year!

However, Missouri Press has agreed to assist Wisconsin Newspaper Association with judging two student contests.

If you would like to help judge these students contests,

one college and one high school, please sign up here: <http://bit.ly/39uT1dj>

You can also contact Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com or Kristie Fortier at kfortier@mopress.com for more information about specific rules or questions about the contest.

As always, thank you to everyone who signs up to judge. Without you, it would not be possible to find partners to help with our own contest.



# Sources and resources for Missouri newspapers

**Digital  
FOOTPRINT**  
OFFERED BY MISSOURI PRESS SERVICE



**Every Business Needs  
an Online Presence.**

Contact Ted Lawrence  
at Missouri Press.  
tlawrence@mopress.com  
573-449-4167



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# Request 2021 press cards, calendars

## From Missouri Press Staff

### Missouri Press News

Submit requests for 2021 press cards and 2020-2021 MPA auto stickers today by going online or emailing staffers' names to Kristie Fortier at [kfortier@mopress.com](mailto:kfortier@mopress.com)

There is no charge for press cards or auto stickers for MPA members; please include a total number of stickers needed for your organization. In all requests, please include mailing information for your newspaper.

Because staffing changes occur throughout the year, MPA does not keep a list of cards previously issued.

Members can also request copies of the 2021 MPA sticker calendar.

### Public notice training

Due to staffing changes and COVID-19, many of our members have stopped uploading on the Missouri



Public Notices site at: <https://www.mopublicnotices.com/>

Having public notices uploaded to this site has been critical during discussions with lawmakers looking to take them out of print publications.

If you need to resume uploading, please contact Ted Lawrence at [tlawrence@mopress.com](mailto:tlawrence@mopress.com).

If your newspaper needs training and login information setup, please contact Kristie Fortier at [kfortier@mopress.com](mailto:kfortier@mopress.com)

If you don't have many notices, it may be easier to have Missouri Press have your newspapers' notices uploaded for you at \$.25 each per run date.

### Email distribution list

Are all staff who should be receiving Missouri Press emails signed up?

Email communication with Missouri Press' members is vital to promoting the industry and protecting our interests in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C.

We want to make sure every member newspaper is staying up-to-date with the Association's latest happenings and informed about issues that affect your business. We also distribute statewide ads via email each week.

If your staff changes or we need to add someone, please send the names, job titles and email addresses to Matthew Barba at [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com)

## NAM launches nationwide public notice website

### For Missouri Press News

Newspaper Association Managers, Inc., a consortium of North American trade associations representing the industry, has launched a website aimed at promoting legal notices in newspapers.

The website, [USALegalNotice.com](http://USALegalNotice.com), provides direct access to 47 public notice websites, including [mopublicnotices.com](http://mopublicnotices.com), from across the country, each of which is operated by state newspaper associations. The site allows the public to more easily access legal notices nationwide, including foreclosures, public hearings, financial reports, ordinances and resolutions, and other important government proceedings.

As the most trusted source of information in their communities, newspapers are committed to making the public aware of important civic matters that affect them. NAM's launch of [USALegalNotice.com](http://USALegalNotice.com) allows the industry to continue distributing public information to the largest possible audience.

NAM is a professional organization comprised of the executives of state, regional, national and international newspaper associations headquartered in the United States and Canada. Missouri Press Association Executive Director Mark Maassen is a member.

## Find many legislative resources on MPA's mopress.com

### From Missouri Press Staff

To help you be better prepared to talk with your legislators and discuss issues important to the newspaper industry, Missouri Press Association has launched a new legislative resources web page.

Located at <https://mopress.com/missouri-press-legislative-roundup/> or accessed from the front page of the Association's website, the page collects the following information for members to access any time:

- Legislative reports from Lathrop GPM, MPA's lobbying partner in Jefferson City
- Calls to action for Missouri Press members
- State-specific resources about proposed, passed or defeated legislation
- Legislation summaries that affect the newspaper industry
- Information on federal legislation being proposed
- Contact information for state and federal legislators

Missouri Press will continue to distribute emails as necessary with an emphasis on calls to action.

If you have any questions, or suggestions for items to include on this page, please contact Missouri Press Editor Matthew Barba at [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com)



# Newspapers in Education Week is March 1-5

## From Missouri Press Staff

Calling all publishers to join us in celebrating Newspapers in Education Week. This annual event occurs the first full week of March, so the 1st through the 5th this year.

Plan to take this week to reach out to teachers, principals and superintendents to share with them the importance of NIE. Studies by the News Media Alliance show that more than 60 percent of people exposed to newspapers in childhood become regular readers of newspapers as adults.

Regular newspaper readers are typically engaged citizens who participate in their communities by exercising their voting rights. The Missouri Press Foundation's Newspaper in Education program has resources to help you inform school leaders about our program.

Please visit the NIE FTP site, <http://www.mo-nie.com>, and use the download code of niefornewspapers.

Contact NIE Manager Helen Headrick at [hheadrick@mopress.com](mailto:hheadrick@mopress.com) for more information.

## Active membership to consider

### From Missouri Press Staff

The Missouri Press Association has received an Active Membership application for *The Kansas City Globe*. It is published by Marion Jordan.

*The Kansas City Globe*, 615 E. 9th St., Kansas City, MO 64109, [kcglobe@swbell.net](mailto:kcglobe@swbell.net), [www.thekcglobe.com](http://www.thekcglobe.com), 816-531-5253. It is published weekly with a circulation of 10,000.

Membership applications are

considered by the MPA Board of Directors at its first meeting after this notice has been published in at least three issues of the MPA Bulletin, eBulletin or magazine. The next meeting of the MPA Board is scheduled for June 11, 2021, with the location still to be determined.

Comments about applications can be sent to MPA Executive Director Mark Maassen at [mmaassen@mopress.com](mailto:mmaassen@mopress.com)

## Missouri Press Association / Service / Foundation

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Ted Lawrence: Advertising Director, [tlawrence@mopress.com](mailto:tlawrence@mopress.com)  
Jeremy Patton: Advertising Placement, [jpatton@mopress.com](mailto:jpatton@mopress.com)

Kristie Fortier: Member Services, Meeting Planning, [kfortier@mopress.com](mailto:kfortier@mopress.com)  
Marcie Elfrink: Bookkeeping, [melfrink@mopress.com](mailto:melfrink@mopress.com)

Michael Harper: Foundation Director, [mharper@mopress.com](mailto:mharper@mopress.com)  
Helen Headrick: NIE & Education Director, [hheadrick@mopress.com](mailto:hheadrick@mopress.com)

Jean Maneke: Legal Hotline Counselor, [jmaneke@manekelaw.com](mailto:jmaneke@manekelaw.com)

Doug Crews: Legislative Director, [rdcrews@socket.net](mailto:rdcrews@socket.net)



## CALENDAR

### March

- 1-5 — Newspapers in Education Week
- 31 — Better Newspaper Contest Entry Deadline
- 31 — Outstanding Young Journalist Nomination Deadline
- 31 — Newspaper Hall of Fame Nomination Deadline

### April

- 20 — Internship Grant Program Applications Due
- 22 — Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives Annual Meeting, Tentative

### June

- 10 — First Amendment Golf Classic, Lake Ozark, Tentative
- 11 — Missouri Press Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, Tentative
- 11 — Missouri Press Association and Service Boards of Directors meetings, Tentative

### September

- 23-25 — 155th Annual Convention and Trade Show, The Elms, Excelsior Springs

### October

- 21 — Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Columbia

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# More On Advertising

Ted Lawrence,  
Advertising Director  
Missouri Press Service



## Surf's up!

Keith Lubner at SalesGravy.com says many of us are mistaken when we try to list the personality traits of the most productive salespeople.

Being an extrovert is NOT one of the traits, contrary to what people traditionally believe.

"Research has shown that the best salespeople are actually ambiverts— those who can flex and have the ability to adapt to situations. These people typically make more money, have deeper pipelines, and enjoy greater success," Lubner says.

Ambiverts realize that working with different people often requires a different approach for each situation. On the other hand extroverts are "often overly assertive, ignoring the needs and interests of the people they are selling to." More often than not, when confronted with a disagreement, ambiverts will display a natural balance with their discussions.

Ambiverts are also more inclined to place an emphasis on "listening rather than pitching". This trait tends to strengthen the relationship between the prospect and the salesperson.

He lists five ways to improve your sales approach, by being more adaptable:

### 1. Virtual is here to stay.

This may seem too obvious, but the sooner you adopt virtual selling techniques into your approach, the sooner you will see greater returns. The salesperson who does this will be the one who is set apart in this new selling environment.

### 2. Be a chameleon.

Adjust to the personality of the person you are interacting with. Be intentional about putting your personality on the backburner when dealing with someone whose dominant personality traits clash with yours.

For instance, if the person you are talking to likes to communicate by telling you stories about their weekend, adapt by listening well, even if you are eager to get to the actual point of the meeting.

### 3. Adapt your sales process.

Lubner says, "We all have a defined sales process that is intended to help us win more by following it. However, we must also adapt to the buying and decision-making processes of our prospects that make up the overall sales process journey."

We mustn't become too determined and rigid in following our internal process. If we do, we may miss the emotional signals that our prospects may be giving us.

### 4. Leverage self-awareness.

You must be flexible and aware of what you need to work on as a person. For instance, you must "adapt to the realization that your self-improvement includes flexing, and having the ability to adapt to other communication styles by listening more."

### 5. Learn to surf.

Lubner refers to an article he read recently about how we will always encounter uncertain times and that we always have choices. "The author compared overcoming adversity in life with surfing. The waves in the ocean will always come", he says. "They will never stop. We can either let the waves hit us, or we can choose to surf the waves."







# Missouri Newspaper Organizations

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**NORTHWEST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, ; Vice President, ; Secretary, Kathy Conger, Bethany; Treasurer, W.C. Farmer, Rock Port. Directors: Past President, Phil Cobb, Maryville; Mike Farmer, Rock Port; Jim McPherson, Weston; Adam Johnson, Mound City; and Kay Wilson, Maryville.

**SHOW-ME PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, Hannah Spaar, Odessa; Vice President, vacant; Secretary-Treasurer, vacant. Director: Roxie Murphy, Maries County Advocate.

**OZARK PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, Dan Wehmer, Webster County Citizen; Secretary-Treasurer, Norene Proski, Ozark County Times, Gainesville. Directors: David Burton, University of Missouri Extension, Springfield; Allison Wilson, West Plains Daily Quill; and Kyle Troutman, Monett Times; Past-President, Jamey Honeycutt, Phillips Media.

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, Beth Durreman, Perryville; Second Vice President, Lucas Presson, Cape Girardeau; Secretary-Treasurer, Michelle Friedrich, Poplar Bluff; Historian, Peggy Scott, Festus. Directors: Kim Combs, Piedmont; Randy Pribble, Iron Mountain; Anne Hayes, Cape Girardeau; Matthew Dollard, Cape Girardeau; and Tamara Buck, Cape Girardeau.

**MISSOURI PRESS ADVERTISING & MARKETING EXECUTIVES:** President Bryan Chester, Columbia; First Vice President, Whitney Livengood, Washington; Secretary-Treasurer, Kristie Fortier, Columbia. Directors include: Kevin Jones, St. Louis, Sandy Schnurbusch, Perryville; Brittney Cady, Jefferson City; Gina Langston, Greenfield; Past President, James White, Warsaw.

**MISSOURI PRESS SERVICE:** President, James White, Warsaw; Vice President, Jeff Schrag, Springfield; Secretary-Treasurer, Dennis Warden, Owensville. Directors: Phil Conger, Bethany; Jim Robertson, Columbia.

**MISSOURI PRESS FOUNDATION, INC.:** Interim President, Dave Berry, Bolivar; First Vice President, Wendell Lenhart, Trenton; Secretary-Treasurer, Doug Crews, Columbia. Directors: Vicki Russell, Columbia; James Sterling, Columbia; John Spaar, Odessa; Dane Vernon, Eldon; Bill Miller, Sr., Washington; Jean Snider, Harrisonville; Brian Brooks, Columbia; Kathy Conger, Bethany; Paul Stevens, Lenexa; Jim Robertson, Columbia; Dalton Wright, Lebanon; Steve Ahrens, Jefferson City; Trevor Vernon, Eldon. Director Emeritus: Rogers Hewitt, Shelbyville.

**MISSOURI COLLEGE MEDIA ASSOCIATION:** President, Ryan Pivoney, Truman State University; Vice President, Zoë Jones, Missouri Western State University; Secretary, Brooke Holford, Southeast Missouri State University; MPA Liaison, Jack Dimond, Missouri State University; Adviser, Don Krause, Truman State University.

# Technology's role in governing continues to raise questions about transparency

A reporter in the state sent an email in to the hotline during January questioning whether conversations one-on-one among members of the public body can constitute a violation of the law. She was clear that these were not conversations among a quorum of the public body but involved only a small portion of the entity.

Still, of course, the concern arises that such a conversation can lead to the formation of a majority opinion, fostered by these small-group meetings, and cemented by word that others are supportive of a position that has never been discussed by the public body members at a public meeting. An under-the-table consortium created and cemented by actions out of sight of the public.

One early example of this situation arose in 1995, when a group of school board members of the Center School District (a Kansas City suburb) arrived at a board meeting and announced they had the votes to terminate the superintendent, even though no meeting on that subject had been held. Instead, they had held a series of individual discussions and garnered enough support to know they would be successful if a motion was introduced at a board meeting.

In deciding that lawsuit, the Court recognized that individual members alone did not have the power to act and therefore, unless a quorum was present, a "meeting" of the body did not occur. At the same time, that Court held that Courts are not so naive as to be blind to the fact that those inclined

to violate the Open Meetings Law could do so using the quorum requirement as a shield. This could be done by conducting, in effect, the equivalent of a "public meeting" in a series of "closed meetings" with numbers of less than a quorum in each such meeting but totaling a quorum or more when taken together.

In such closed meetings with less than a quorum, deliberations could be conducted and votes taken with a public meeting then being held to ratify publicly that which had already been done in private. This would violate the spirit of our Sunshine Law and would render an unreasonable result that was not intended by our legislature."

Fast forward to 2004, nine years later. Cell phones proliferate, all of which are getting text messages. Sending an email is antiquated. And every governmental employee wants one, supplied, of course, by his or her employer. Discussions that used to take place in corner coffee shops now occur on those phones. There was a clear need for the Sunshine Law to catch up to reality.

So, in the course of some tinkering with the statutes in chapter 610, this new section (Section 610.025) was added: "Any member of a public governmental body who transmits any message relating to public business by electronic means shall also concurrently transmit that message to either the member's public office computer or the custodian of records in the same format. The provisions of this section shall only apply to messages sent to two or more

members of that body so that, when counting the sender, a majority of the body's members are copied. Any such message received by the custodian or at the member's office computer shall be a public record subject to the exceptions of section 610.021."

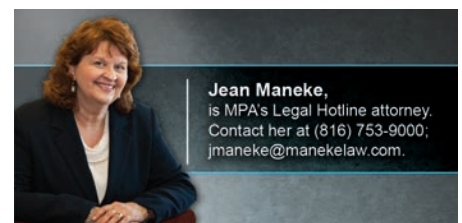
The new section ensured emails or text messages sent on privately-owned phones, if sent to a quorum of the body, would also be sent to the custodian of the body. And the same year, the definition of "public record" was expanded to cover electronic records retained by a public body, so that any record on a publicly-owned device (computer, phone, or otherwise) was considered a public record.

Sixteen years later, there are still members of public bodies that struggle with this. Questions arise.

If Governor Parson had a private Twitter account, like former President Trump, would it be subject to the Sunshine Law? Are official Facebook accounts of public officials considered public records? To what extent is a public body responsible for retaining comments made on an official account, whether Facebook, Twitter, or otherwise?

The point of this column is not, fortunately, to give you definitive answers to these questions. That takes a more intensive analysis of the facts in each situation. But much of the journalism being done in the last couple of years has clearly arisen around these issues. I am sure we haven't heard the last of this with the change in Presidency.

*"Discussions that used to take place in corner coffee shops now occur on ... phones. There was a clear need for the Sunshine Law to catch up to reality."*



Jean Maneke,  
is MPA's Legal Hotline attorney.  
Contact her at (816) 753-9000;  
jmaneke@manekelaw.com.



# Missouri Press Foundation

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## Thank You to Everyone

who gave to our end-of-the-year fundraisers. Because of you, we've raised \$12,389.67 to support our young journalist and Newspapers in Education programs. We are so very grateful to everyone below who made a gift to the Foundation.

---

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**BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST**

# **The template is now open!**

**Upload your entries for the 2021 BNC  
before Wednesday, March 31!**

Full contest rules and categories can be found on Missouri Press' website at  
<https://mopress.com/better-newspaper/>

Here are some tips to help you prepare your entries.

1. If you have entries that consist of more than one piece of content, combine them into **one file. This will make uploading and judging much easier.**

**This will apply to Best Columnist, Best Front Page, etc., where an entry is more than one piece. Combine them into one file. Do the same for stories that jump to another page. Combine the pages into one file for uploading.**

**2. Make the category number the first element in the title of each entry.**

**3. Put all your entries into a "Contest Entries" folder on your desktop.**

**If you have any questions please contact Matthew Barba at [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com)**