

MP MISSOURI PRESS NEWS

Meet Roger Dillon, *MPA's 2022 President* | P4



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These ink-stained fingers have childhood roots

My name is Roger, and I am a newspaperaholic. I wasn't born with this addiction but acquired it at an early age, shortly after learning to read in St. Joseph, where the Pony Express began and Jesse James ended, as duly reported in the St. Joe News Press and Gazette.

Learning to read was the gateway drug to this lifelong addiction, which was fueled by a pact between my parents and some very stubborn nuns, who were determined to give us an education, whether we wanted it or not. It started innocently enough, reading the back of cereal boxes and comic books before those paper boy pushers got me hooked on the daily comics, sports section, local, state, and national news, features, ads and incredible photographs of all of the

above.

After surviving a great deal of corporal punishment (probably less than I deserved however as the self-appointed class clown) at the hands of an even more stubborn group of Christian Brother high school teachers, I was asked by a Missouri Western counselor what I wanted to be and/or what was I good at.

I didn't tell her that I was voted funniest in the CBHS Class of '69, mainly because I suspected my classmates thought they were voting for funniest looking. I did say I got Bs in most of my English classes and thought maybe I'd like to be a writer.

What I meant was I'd like to write the next *Catcher in the Rye*, being a rebel without a clue.

Anyway, she determined that

Missouri University's School of Journalism was where I ought to be.

With St. Joseph native Walter Cronkite as a boyhood hero, I enrolled in the Broadcast Journalism sequence, thinking I might want to be a talking head. That changed with the realization that I have a face more suited for radio and then later fell in love with photography, wanting to work for *National Geographic*, where many MU photojournalism grads were on staff. Nat Geo, a magazine that I have loved my entire life, or at least until it was acquired by Rupert Murdoch.

The Missouri School of Journalism, first in the world, founded by the remarkable Walter Williams, who was born in Boonville and would eventually become editor and part-owner of a weekly in Columbia, Mo. "Printer's ink is black and of no great worth, but Walter Williams of Missouri mixed it with courage and honor and caused it to shine like gold," said an editorial in the *Dallas Journal*.

Continued on Page 3



Roger Dillon,
Shannon County Current Wave,
Eminence
MPA President



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Continued from Page 2: *Inspiring words for every journalist*

I have long regretted that I didn't pay more attention while at J-school and could remember more of what I did learn. Though we never had to memorize it, as we were told previous classes had, I have always kept a copy of Williams' legendary Creed. While its lofty standards may not always be achievable by us mere mortals, it remains relevant today and gives us professional goals towards which we should all continue to strive:

"I believe in the profession of journalism. I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of their responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of lesser service than the public service is a betrayal of this trust.

I believe that clear thinking and clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism. I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true. I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one's own pocketbook is as much to be avoided as bribery by the pocketbook of another; that individual responsibility

may not be escaped by pleading another's instructions or another's dividends.

I believe that advertising, news and editorial columns should alike serve the best interests of the readers; that single standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for all; that the supreme test of good journalism is that measure of its public service.

I believe that the journalism which succeeds best - and best deserves success - fears God and honors man; is stoutly independent, unmoved by pride or opinion or greed of power, constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-controlled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always unafraid; is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed by the appeal of privilege or the clamor of the mob; seeks to give every man a chance and, as far as law and honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while sincerely promoting international good will and cementing world comradeship; is a journalism of humanity, of and for today's world."

On a less serious note, there's nothing in there that says we newspaperaholics can't have a good time doing it.

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This old newshound is still learning new tricks

Roger Dillon takes office as Missouri Press Association's 2022 president.

By Matthew Barba
Missouri Press News

A native Missourian with history from all across the state, Roger Dillon tried big city living (twice) but ultimately found his home in Shannon County.

Dillon is owner and publisher of the *Shannon County Current Wave* in Eminence, a town of about 600 people located smack dab in the middle of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, the state's largest national park.

The 2022 Missouri Press Association president was born in St. Joseph, but he has called the Ozarks home most of his life, from various jobs around the Lake of the Ozarks to spending the last 38 years in Eminence putting out the *Current Wave* each week.

A proud 1973 University of Missouri School of Journalism alum, Dillon went to work in Memphis, Tenn. after graduating but didn't care for it. He returned to Missouri and took a job as a disc jockey with KRMS at the Lake of the Ozarks, and from there to KSIS in Sedalia.

He likes to joke that he was known then as "Rockin' Roger" but also admits he was probably the only person who ever called him that. Today he teases that he likes to refer to himself as "Rockin' Chair Roger."

From Sedalia, he returned MU, this time studying photojournalism as a graduate student. Smiling, he says he was eventually asked to leave by "the great Angus McDougall when he discovered I was using the school's dark room but no longer enrolled in classes."

Dillon went back to the Lake to be a reporter with the *Lake Sun* in Osage Beach. "I always loved the Lake," he said. While there, he also became a Historic Preservation Officer, a still-relatively new program for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in the 1970s. He contributed most of the photos and some of the copy for



Roger Dillon, publisher of the *Shannon County Current Wave*, Eminence, is Missouri Press Association's 2022 president. He has owned the newspaper for 38 years. He is pictured here with wife Carol, left, and *Current Wave* office manager Gayla Phipps. (Staff photos)

"From these Beginnings," a book about the history of the Lake of the Ozarks and the five surrounding counties.

Perhaps most interesting about Dillon's time at the Lake of the Ozarks is that he was the last private resident and caretaker of Ha Ha Tonka, which became Missouri's 63rd state park in 1978 but before then was private property.

"I went to the county recorder and asked who owned the property, and she told me it was owned by a corporation. So, I wrote letters to all of the directors on the board. I told them they had one of the most beautiful pieces of property in the state but it was being devalued every day, and I could watch over it for them.

"All I asked was for 30 days' notice before I would be asked to leave," Dillon said. "Shortly after the water tower burned (1976), I got a letter back saying it would be my proof that I was allowed to stay there."

Dillon moved a trailer he had lived in during college onto the property, ran water from a spring, and was joined by two boyhood friends from St. Joe. Years later an old timer in the Eminence coffee shop told Roger that when he lived at the Lake, there were "a bunch of hippies with a pack of wild dogs" living at Ha Ha Tonka. "That would have been us," Dillon told him.

Continued on Page 5



The sign outside the *Shannon County Current Wave* in Eminence, directing visitors up the hill to the second floor office.

Continued from Page 4: *New MPA president*



Missouri Press Association Executive Director Mark Maassen, left, talks with Roger Dillon, 2022 MPA president and publisher of the *Shannon County Current Wave*, and his wife, Carol. Roger Dillon has published the *Eminence* newspaper since February 1984. (Staff photos)

Learning to miss the Ozarks

He left the Lake again after a couple of years and took a job as editor at the *Northeast News* in Houston, Texas, where he was again reminded that big city living was not for him.

"I missed the Ozarks and wanted to come back," Dillon said, explaining that he knew Faye Ellingsworth, a newspaper broker in Lebanon, Mo. After recommending a newspaper in Oklahoma where it was too hot and flat for his liking, he heard about the newspaper in Eminence.

"When I called to tell her Lake Oolagah, Okla., wasn't really the Ozarks, I asked Faye how she was doing and she said not very good because the guy running a paper she and her husband owned in Eminence had just quit and was starting a new paper there," Dillon remembers. "When I said that sounded like what I was looking for, she said, 'Oh, you wouldn't want this one!' That may have been reverse psychology on her part."

"[Faye] told me it was a small community, and the newspaper wasn't very big," Dillon said. "I told her it sounded perfect for me."

In February 1984, Dillon became the owner of the *Current Wave*. At the

time, the newspaper's office was across the street from the courthouse, but it has since moved a couple blocks down to its current location, just off the city's main drag.

He remembers after getting the first week's newspaper out, he went around town asking where a guy might get an "adult beverage." Everyone told him the same thing, there wasn't any place in town.

The closest such establishment was called "Frank's Safari Lounge," about 11 miles south in Winona, where Dillon, now being "from Eminence," would probably not be welcome due to an ongoing town rivalry and just might get beat up. He went anyway and found more than just adult beverages as the owners, Frank and Bessie, welcomed him with open arms and he ended up marrying their daughter.

"That's where I met my wife," Dillon

says with a smile. "At first she didn't want anything to do with me. She thought I was stuck up and her mom warned her that I was 'poor as a church mouse.'"

Love prevailed though and they married, with Carol bringing her two children. The family continued to grow, and they now have seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Dillon's daughter-in-law, Gayla Phipps, is the *Current Wave's* office manager/ad designer and composer/social media guru/anything-else-that-needs-done doer.

Newspapers' future

While much of what is needed to put out a newspaper each week has stayed the same, there have also been a lot of changes. "We find ourselves dealing with shifting platforms," Dillon said.

Dillon has considered selling the newspaper in the past but isn't looking to just "get out." So, in 2022, at the age of 70, he finds himself introducing new technology, new computers and new processes into the workflow that comes with putting out the newspaper.

He recently started working with Lewis County Press' Workbench software, which Missouri Press News covered in an August 2021 article. In addition to all of the other benefits, Dillon said he wants a website for his newspaper that he can monetize.

"I don't know how to do that myself, but I know it needs to be done. I didn't know how to have a pay wall before they showed me," he said.

These changes reflect on a much bigger topic of concern facing the *Current Wave* and every other newspaper like it throughout the state, and what Dillon hopes will be a focus of the Association in the coming months.

Concluded on Page 6



Roger Dillon's newspaper office includes pictures of several famous Missourians, some more prolific than others.

Continued from Page 5: Sustainability

"We need to look at the sustainability of newspapers, particularly for small ones," Dillon said. "Right now, we have a newspaper in every county, and we need to keep it that way."

Legislative issues, such as keeping public notices in print and ensuring the strength of the Sunshine Law, are also critical to the future of newspapers and their communities, Dillon added.

"If public notices are taken out of printed newspapers, it's going to kill a bunch of small businesses," he said. "But more than that, it's going to kill the public's ability to know what their government is doing. Putting public notices online, no one is going to go to a government website to look for those."

The state's lack of broadband internet, or in some cases reliable internet service of any speed, is another issue with which Dillon, Eminence and Shannon County are intimately familiar.

"When the radio came out, they said newspapers were done. When television came out, they said the same. Now we've got the internet and newspapers are still here," Dillon said. "The newspaper is more than just the printed paper, it's a part of the community. That's why newspapers are still around and it's why we have to do what we can to make sure they stay around in one form or another."

Roger Dillon is MPA's 2022 President. He took office on Jan. 1, after being elected during MPA's 155th Annual Convention. He is married to Carol Dillon and together they live in Eminence, up the hill from the newspaper's office.

MPA's 156th Annual Convention and Trade Show is scheduled for Sept. 15-17, at the Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark.

To make a donation to Missouri Press Foundation, contact Michael Harper at 573-449-4167, ext. 303, or at mharper@mopress.com



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These individuals and/or organizations made recent contributions to Missouri Press Foundation.

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2021 Was a CRAZY YEAR! Be rewarded for your headaches and hard work by entering the 2022 MPAME Best Ad Contest and show everyone the great work you have done to drive revenue and maybe help others out in the process!

CONTEST INFORMATION

To find full information and rules, go to <https://mopress.com/ad-contest/>

Entries must have been published between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

The contest is open to all staff members of publications holding ACTIVE or ACTIVE ONLINE membership in the Missouri Press Association.

All entries must be submitted as FULL-PAGE electronic tearsheet files. Please name the file(s) in a way that clearly identifies the ad(s) being submitted for judging. You may also circle or include other graphic markings to indicate which ad is to be judged.

All entries must have been conceived, written, designed and sold by full or part-time employees of the newspaper.

Note: For large files, you may use Dropbox, Google Drive, Scribd or issuu to create a remote digital file and share the url. **Please make sure the file is public, made shareable or that a password is provided, so it can be printed for judging and/or display purposes. For smaller files, you can use PDF or Word Documents.**

A fee of \$7 per entry must be paid online, mailed or called in by time of entry deadline. Pay online at: <https://bit.ly/2Lg6FVe>. If mailing payment, please mail check to: MPAME Contest, 802 Locust Street, Columbia, MO 65201 or call credit card payment into the MPA office: 573-449-4167 ext. 300.

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If you have any questions, need your password or email reset for betterbnc.com, OR feel your newspaper is in the wrong class, please contact Kristie Fortier at kfortier@mopress.com or call 573.449.4167 ext. 301

AWARDS & MEETING INFORMATION

Make plans now to attend the Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives meeting being held on April 21-22, 2022.

Winners will be recognized, and awards presented Thursday, **April 21, 2022.**

Event Registration form will be available in January of 2022, at www.mopress.com under EVENTS.

SO WHAT? NUTS

Next to the lead, the most important part of a story falls typically in the third to sixth paragraph. It's the context, or "nut graph." When it's missing, the story can drive the reader nuts.

THE WHY: The nut graph tells the reader why the story is important and why they should care.

THE VALUE: This "So what!" paragraph can add historic perspective ("the most important step in 30 years"), significance ("biggest test the community has ever encountered"), relevance ("the latest in a series of offers"), unusualness ("marks the departure of a pioneer in state government"), or dramatic effect ("the tax increase is expected to cause additional departures in a city that's been hard-pressed to keep the middle class").

THE WHY: When a story appears on Page One or atop the home page, the "So what!" paragraph can further justify what the editors were thinking when establishing an importance. It says why the story deserves such play.

THE VALUE: The "So what!" paragraph also can be a good check on whether the writer understands the story's depth or dimension. Red flag: Story arrives without the nut graph. Writer and editor spend 30 minutes trying to agree on one without success. The conclusion: More reporting is needed.

—Tom Silvestri, adapted from his chapter in the book, "The Journalist's Craft"



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Lebanon

Pat Smith

Patricia Ann Tanner "Pat" Smith, 87, of Lebanon, died Dec. 10, 2021, in Springfield. She was the wife of former MPA President (1991) and newspaper publisher R.B. "Bob" Smith, who preceded her in death in 2020.



A teacher for three years, Pat became a devoted homemaker following the birth of her son, Stephen, and supported her husband in his work at newspapers in Tennessee and Missouri, including as publisher in Branson and Lebanon.

She is survived by many family and friends.

Raymore

Mercer Bailey

Mercer G. Bailey, 94, of Raymore, died Nov. 20, 2021, due to complications from COVID-19.

He was a journalist with The Associated Press for 47 years and helped develop the careers of many AP staffers.

Bailey joined the AP in May 1943 at the age of 17. After service with the U.S. Army in post-war Japan in 1945-47, he returned to the AP as news editor in Alabama. He was promoted to the general desk in New York in 1963 and five years later was named the service's St. Louis correspondent.



In 1970 he was promoted to assistant chief of bureau in Kansas City, overseeing operations in Kansas and Missouri. He held that position until his retirement in 1990.

Hospitalized at the time of the 1981 Hyatt Hotel skywalk collapse, Bailey climbed out of bed and hurried to the emergency room to interview survivors.

In addition to his wife, Rosalee, Bailey is survived by two daughters, Marcia and Lynn; three grandchildren; and many more family and friends.

**Send obituaries for Missouri Press News to
mbarba@mopress.com**

Applications due Jan. 31 for Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship

From Missouri Press Staff

Thank you to all the Missouri Press member newspapers who have helped to promote the new Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship, launched in 2021 in partnership with the Missouri School of Journalism and the Reynolds Journalism Institute (RJI).

The deadline to submit applications for the scholarship, to be awarded for the 2022-23 academic year, is Jan. 31, 2022. If you know of any youth in your community who might interested in attending journalism school and meet the application's criteria, please encourage them to submit their application before the deadline.

A need-based award, the Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship will provide up to \$40,000 for qualifying students attending the Missouri School of Journalism for four years. Students chosen for the program must be pursuing a degree in journalism or strategic communication, and upon graduation students receiving the scholarship will be expected to work for a rural Missouri newspaper for at least two years.

The Missouri Press Foundation and the Missouri School of Journalism are eager to attract Missouri high school graduates to the School of Journalism with the goals of preparing them to take leadership roles at rural Missouri

newspapers and helping those students finance college degrees in journalism. This scholarship program is intended to attract such candidates and assist publishers with finding qualified candidates.

If you haven't already, provide information about the scholarship to your high schools' journalism programs and make sure the faculty advisors know about the Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship and the upcoming deadline.

Also, reach out to youth organization leaders in your community and let them know about the scholarship directly. Students participating in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4-H and Scouts programs are great potential prospects for future rural Missouri newspaper journalists.

Qualification is determined through the federal FAFSA program. Additional funding opportunities include a \$5,000 summer fellowship through RJI and a further \$1,200 from RJI's Potter Digital Ambassador Program.

An application for the scholarship can be found on the Missouri Press Association website, www.mopress.com.

Please contact Missouri Press Executive Director Mark Maassen with any questions at (573) 449-4167, ext. 308, or mmaassen@mopress.com.

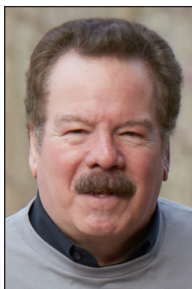


St. Louis — Wiley Price, photojournalist for the *St. Louis American*, was recently named one of the St. Louis Press Club's 2021 Media Persons of the Year. Honorees are chosen for their outstanding contributions to journalism and the St. Louis community.



A longtime photographer for the *American*, one of the state's largest weekly newspapers, Price also spent 10 years with the Suburban Journals of St. Louis. He was inducted into the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame in 2012 and joined the St. Louis Media Hall of Fame in 2019.

Webster Groves — Don Corrigan, editor emeritus for the *Webster-Kirkwood Times*, has published a new book, "American Roadkill: The Animal Victims of Our Busy Highways."



Corrigan wrote the book to focus on the concerns scientists, animal rights activists, ethicists and others have about the increasing number of animals being killed on the nation's roadways, including sending some towards extinction.

In promotion of his book, Corrigan has held and is planning book signing events to promote various

animal advocacy groups around the state. In December, he held a signing to benefit the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation, which has advocated since 1990 in the state capitol to help enact laws that protect animals.

In addition to serving as editor emeritus for the *Times*, Corrigan is also professor emeritus at Webster University, where he directed student studies for the school's Outdoor/Environmental Journalism Certificate. His other works include the 2019 book, "Nuts About Squirrels: The Rodents That Conquered Popular Culture."

**Send your news for
Missouri Press News to
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Elizabeth Conner Stephens named executive editor of *Columbia Missourian* *Stephens also becomes Missouri Community Newspaper Management Chair.*

From University of Missouri School of Journalism

Elizabeth Conner Stephens has been named executive editor for the *Columbia Missourian*, the Missouri School of Journalism's digital-first community newsroom. An associate professor at the School and formerly the digital director for the *Missourian* and KOMU-TV, she will direct coverage and community engagement. She will also hold the Missouri Community Newspaper Management Chair, which will see her work with local newspapers across the state to help improve their coverage and operations.

Stephens will officially step into the role on Jan. 16 and will take over for Mark Horvit, who has served as interim executive editor since July.

With more than 15 years of experience in journalism, Stephens has served in variety of editor roles in print, digital, and television outlets, and she also brings experience as a social media

director and community outreach coordinator to the role. After earning a bachelor's degree from the School of Journalism in 2005, she got her start at the *Ledger-Enquirer*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning community newspaper in Columbus, Georgia, where she worked her way from copy editor to copy desk chief in less than three years.

After stints at finance and law publications, she came to the *Missourian* in 2011 as a Knight visiting editor before earning her master's degree from the school in 2014 and subsequently joining the faculty full time. She was named digital director for the *Missourian* and KOMU-TV in 2020 and worked with editors in both newsrooms to execute digital best practices.

In the endowed chair position, Stephens will work closely with the

Missouri Press Association, which endowed the chair two decades ago as a joint effort with Mizzou to strengthen community newspapers and educate journalism students about them. The chair was previously held by Ruby Bailey, who also served as an MPA Director before joining the *Indianapolis Star* in mid-2021.

Stephens has been a past presenter to Missouri Press members at different events, including at the 2021 meeting of Show-Me Press Association.

"Stephens has proven that she is the most qualified choice to be the next executive editor of the *Missourian*," said Mark Maassen, executive director of the Missouri Press Association. "In her role as chair, I can tell you that Missouri newspapers are looking forward to her innovative concepts and presentations. I couldn't be happier with her selection."



Elizabeth Conner Stephens



BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Begin preparing your entries now for the 2022 Better Newspaper Contest

Final details for Missouri Press Foundation's 2022 Better Newspaper Contest will be released soon. Look for more information in upcoming Missouri Press communications, including weekly emails and online at www.mopress.com.

Below are some tips to help you prepare your entries.

- Put all your entries into a "Contest Entries" folder on your desktop.
- 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 applies to several categories and if you have any questions, please contact the Missouri Press staff for help. Do the same for stories that jump to another page.**

If you have any questions please contact Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com or Kristie Fortier at kfortier@mopress.com

Mark your calendars for Missouri Press Association's 156th Annual Convention, Sept. 15-17, 2022, at Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark.

ON THE MOVE



Festus — Beth Durreman, formerly publisher of the *Perry County Republic-Monitor*, has joined the staff of Leader Publications as the group's advertising manager. At more than 77,000 circulation between its four newspapers, Leader Publications is the largest group Durreman says she has worked for in her more than 30 years in newspapers.

Durreman is also first vice-president of Missouri Press Association's Board of Directors, which she has served on since 2019. She is slated to be president in 2023.

Greenfield — Melissa Little has been named general manager of *The Vedette*, replacing former editor and publisher Regina Langston, who took the role of assistant director of advertising at the *Joplin Globe* in December. Little's duties with the *Lamar Democrat* will remain, and she will serve as regional sales manager for Lewis County Press, assisting with projects at publications in Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Kentucky, Virginia and Arkansas.

Little was recently named the Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives' Account Executive of the Year. She joined the *Democrat* in September 2013.

Other staff at the newspaper have taken on additional duties with the



Melissa Little



Regina Langston



leadership change, including James McNary, former articles editor and reporter since April 2018, who was named the *Vedette's* editor. Lavinia Thornhill, the newspaper's designer added office manager duties to her position. Rachel Lewandowski now splits advertising duties with Bob Jackson, longtime contributing

reporter to the *Vedette*.

Langston had been with the *Vedette* since early 2018, and before that she worked for the *Globe*. She is also a member of the MPAME Board of Directors.

Lamar — Melody Metzger, editor and publisher of the *Lamar Democrat*, has taken on an expanded role with Lewis County Press as the company's regional editor. Her new role will include assisting with management training and facilitating the company's readership initiatives.

Metzger is familiar with the *Vedette*, as it and the *Democrat* coordinate coverage on Golden City and Lockwood, where coverage overlaps as a legacy of predecessors of both, including the *Golden City Herald*, *Lockwood Luminary*, and *Dade County Advocate*.



Poplar Bluff — The *Daily American Republic* has two new staff members in Samantha Tucker and Robert



Augsdorfer, staff writer and sports reporter respectively. Tucker joined the newspaper in September 2021, bringing with her experience in writing, photojournalism, proofing and paginating. She had previously worked for *The Prairie Press*, in her hometown of Paris, Ill.

A lifelong writer, Tucker enjoys telling the stories of people and events around her. She also has a family connection to journalism — her grandmother was a journalist, and Tucker is proud to carry that legacy forward. She says newspapers large and small are vital to healthy communities.

Augsdorfer joined the *DAR* in November, his second newsroom role after spending about two and a half years in western Kentucky writing and shooting photos for *The Messenger* in Madisonville. He grew up playing sports and is looking forward to writing and telling the sports stories of his new community.



Sign up to judge the Maryland, Delaware and DC News and Ad Contest!

Each year Missouri Press Association trades contest judging with another state or regional press association. This year we will judge for Maryland, Delaware and DC (MDDC), and we appreciate each and every one of our members who assists in judging. So please sign up today!

The MDDC Contest recognizes excellence in news media in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. Contest categories focus on editorial, design and revenue, plus special awards for standout personnel, Freedom of Information coverage, Courage in Journalism, and News Organization of the Year.

A sign-up form can be found on Missouri Press Association's website, www.mopress.com.

Sources and Resources



Every Business Needs an Online Presence.

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



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Alden sues Lee after rejection of takeover bid

By Josh Funk

The Associated Press

After Lee Enterprises rejected Alden Global Capital's attempt to buy the newspaper publisher, the hedge fund responded mid-December with a lawsuit accusing Lee's board of improperly denying shareholders the chance to have a say on the offer.

Lee rejected Alden's offer to buy the company for \$24 a share, or roughly \$141 million, earlier in the month because the company's board decided the offer "grossly undervalued" the company.

But Alden argued in its lawsuit that Lee shouldn't have rejected its offer without even talking to the hedge fund. Alden also said Lee shouldn't have refused to accept its nomination of three outside directors for technical reasons, so it wants the court to order Lee to accept those nominees.

The New York-based hedge fund that owns 6.3% of Lee's stock became one of the largest newspaper owners in the nation after swallowing all of Tribune's newspapers in 2021, but it has also earned a reputation for imposing severe cost cuts and layoffs.

Even before Lee rejected Alden's bid, it adopted a "poison-pill" plan that would make it more expensive for Alden to buy up Lee's shares once it owns more than 10% of the company. At that point, the plan would allow Lee's other shareholders to buy shares at a 50% discount or possibly get free shares for every share they already own.

Lee owns the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, the *Buffalo News* and dozens of other newspapers including nearly every daily newspaper in Nebraska. Unions that represent journalists at those papers have come out strongly against Alden because they're worried about what the hedge fund would do.

Consider the Capitol Report widget for your website

From Missouri Press Staff

A new year also means a new legislative session and with it the return of the Missouri School of Journalism's Capitol Report Corps. Get statehouse news stories from the J-school's students in Jefferson City collected in one place on your website.

More than three dozen Missouri Press Association members have installed the Capitol Report story collection, or widget, on their websites. The Association is working to expand the project further in 2022 and is seeking more newspapers interested in hosting the widget.

Previously, the widget was promoted as a "4x1" collection, with four thumbnails (three stories and one advertising slot) across one row. Other layouts available include "3x1", "2x2" and a vertical sidebar.

A preview of all the available layouts is at right or can be found online at the bottom of the page: www.mopress.com/missouri-press-legislative-roundup/

Utilizing the widget on your website depends on your content management system but should be as easy as placing a "block" for raw HTML, then copy-pasting the necessary code to the block. Missouri Press staff will be happy to help you get the widget working.

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 collection.

Capitol Report Corps content in the widget is available for all Missouri Press members to use in print and online.

If you have any questions about the Capitol Report, the widget or the code to implement the widget, please contact Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com.

The image displays several examples of the Capitol Report widget layouts. The top section shows a 'State Government Reporting Alternate Layouts' header with three thumbnails: 'State AG orders and to make mandates starting Dec. 22, CPS keeps masks for now', 'Today's service dogs can perform extraordinary tasks to keep their owners safe', and 'The best of Friday Night Lights'. Below this, there are more examples of the widget in different sizes and orientations, including a '4x1' layout with four thumbnails, a '3x1' layout with three thumbnails, and a '2x2' layout with two thumbnails. The thumbnails feature various news stories, including 'State AG orders and to make mandates starting Dec. 22, CPS keeps masks for now', 'Today's service dogs can perform extraordinary tasks to keep their owners safe', 'The best of Friday Night Lights', and 'Female hunters can improve their skills via Instagram short...'. The bottom right corner features a promotional graphic for MRTA (Missouri Rural Teachers Association) with the text 'In these uncertain times you need MRTA more than ever! JOIN NOW!' and a small image of a person wearing a face mask.

Request your 2022 press cards

From Missouri Press Staff

Submit requests for 2022 press cards and 2022-2023 MPA auto stickers today by going online or emailing staffers' names to Kristie Fortier at 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 2022 MPA sticker calendar.

Email distribution list

Are all your 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.

We want to make sure that every member newspaper is

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Mark Maassen
Executive Director

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

Legislative resources available on Missouri Press' website

From Missouri Press Staff

To help you be better prepared to talk with your legislators and discuss the issues important to the newspaper industry, Missouri Press has created a legislative resources page on its website.

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

- Legislative reports from Lathrop GPM, MPA's lobbying partner in Jefferson City;
- Calls to action for Missouri Press members;
- Information 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 Association / Service / Foundation

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CALENDAR

January

5 — First Day of Missouri General Assembly's 2022 Legislative Session

28 — Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives Best Ad Contest Deadline

28 — Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship Applications Due

April

21-22 — Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives Annual Meeting, Camden on the Lake

September

15-17 — 156th Annual Convention and Trade Show, Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark

More On Advertising

Ted Lawrence,
Advertising Director
Missouri Press Service



Years come and go, but the chance of getting rejected on a sales call will always be with us. That's why Ryan Dohrn wrote his book:

How to bounce back after getting rejected.

In the book, Dohrn reminds us that it's a fact of life in sales: You are going to get rejected on prospecting calls. How you bounce back after getting rejected is often the difference between success or failure.

He says it's good to remember that sometimes no matter how nice or professional you are, the person you're calling on will reject you. And because you are interrupting people, they'll be rude, short, ugly, and sometimes take shots at you that are very pointed and personal.

Don't dwell on the rejection

It's natural to dwell on it. You'll stop prospecting and play the rejection over and over again in your head. You feel embarrassed, angry, and revengeful. These emotions shift your mindset to negative and steal your joy, Dohrn says. Meanwhile, the prospect doesn't even remember you. They moved on the moment you hung up the phone and haven't given you another thought. You were just a momentary and meaningless interruption in their day.

"Trust me", says Dohrn. "I've had prospects scream at me on Tuesday and treat me like I'm their best friend on a Wednesday. They are completely oblivious to my previous call. For this reason, when people tell me to 'never call them again,' I call."

Getting Back on the Horse

Facing your fear and making the next call is one of the keys to bouncing back after getting rejected. The brutal truth is that courage is developed in the presence of fear, not in spite of it.

It is difficult to regain your focus and keep moving when a prospect rejects you. It hurts. It's all you can think about and talk about. Anger invades your thoughts and keeps you up all night stewing.

At times, you completely shut down your sales day as you dwell on your anger. In the worst cases, salespeople are so afraid to get back on the prospecting horse that they wreck their pipeline and their career.

Stop Beating Dead Horses

Dohrn says he meets salespeople every day who re-play these rejections on a constant loop in their heads. They seek company for their misery. All they want to talk about is the *"one time a prospect said _____ to me."*

They waste precious time and energy beating this dead horse. Yet, no matter how hard they beat and kick it, the horse will not move. It's dead! Beating a dead horse is self-destructive. Dead horses don't trot, they rot. Here's my advice: *When the horse is dead, dismount.*

Of course, letting go and bouncing back after rejection is challenging. Here are three strategies to help you:

- **Harness anger.** The real secret to moving on is understanding that anger is just energy and when you harness that energy and channel it in the right direction, it's powerful.
- **Develop a bounce-back routine.** Find something that helps you get your confidence back or gets you pumped up. This could be an inspirational quote, podcast, audio book, an affirmation, music, or exercise.
- **Put rejection in perspective.** Over the years, I've developed a simple trigger that helps me put rejection on prospecting calls in perspective. Behind my desk is an old index card taped to the wall. On the card are four letters – NEXT.





Missouri Newspaper Organizations

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Coroner's inquests, online decency and Twitter: Key issues from 2021

This is the time of year when the “old year stuff” is put aside and we turn our focus to what lies ahead. For MPA members, that means turning our focus to the Missouri Legislature, which goes into session within a few days. We hope Santa has brought us folks who will wisely weigh the measures that come before them, acknowledging the important role that journalists play in helping the public understand the difficult issues with which those elected officials wrestle on a daily basis. We are not the enemy.

(Seriously! Pointing out a governmental agency shortcoming is a part of our role as watchdog. It is not a personal attack, especially when the agency is advised in advance — it is done to benefit all of us.)

But before we start worrying about what lies ahead, let's look back at one decision from this fall that deserves a bit more attention because it takes one set of public records and more forcefully parses when those records are open versus closed.

For years, case law has held that autopsy records were closed records because they constituted an “investigative report” of a law enforcement agency, the medical examiner. That is a question that has been considered well-settled law in the Western District of Missouri, if not statewide, because most autopsy reports came from medical examiners, an entity created by statute. The primary case on this subject, from 1998, was *News-Press And Gazette Co. v. Cathcart*, arising out of an inquiry from the *St. Joseph News-Press and Gazette*.

No doubt there have been many autopsy reports prepared since that date. Two come to mind that were in high-profile cases. One was the official autopsy report prepared in 2014 by St. Louis county medical examiners after the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson and which was not released officially until the investigation was

over (ie: “inactive”). Another was the Morgan County coroner's inquest held after the death of Brandon Ellington, the young man who was arrested, handcuffed and taken away by a water patrol officer in 2014, only to be bounced out of the boat by a wake and who drowned as a result. That inquest was undertaken by a coroner's jury who held a public hearing, and who issued public findings and a verdict in the matter.

This fall, the Western District Court of Appeals issued an opinion in the case of *Glasgow School District v. Howard County Coroner* which addressed the *Cathcart* decision in its holding. In this case, the Howard County Coroner's office held an inquest on the death of a student, believed to be suicide, in 2017 in an open hearing before the public. However, the resulting report was not publicly released and after some research, the coroner's office asserted it was an investigative record and therefore closed. (At the same time, the coroner spoke to a television station freely about the report, confusing the entire matter.)

The appellate court determined that the coroner's office was a public body under Missouri statutes and the transcript of a public inquest is not an “investigative report,” but is a public record, because it was in essence a public trial before a jury. This clarification of the issue about the law on such matters is important for journalists in this state to recognize.

And as a final note regarding issues still on the table as we say goodbye to 2021, we need to watch the debate

on Section 230 (42 U.S.C. 230, part of the well-known “Communication Decency Act.”). That is an important federal law because it says if you operate an interactive computer service, you are not the “publisher” or “speaker” of content on your website.

Most of the publicity relates to applying that Section to

Facebook and other website content. But that law is what protects you, the publisher, from liability for content in comments on your newspaper's website!

And, further, watch the debate about Twitter banning the posting of photographs of “private individuals” or “minors” on its platform. It claims such content can violate a person's right to privacy. This could impact those of you with active Twitter accounts. While Twitter says it will weigh in if the content is being covered by traditional media, we need to remember that there is, in fact, NO right to privacy that attaches to any person, minor or adult, who is photographed in a public place.

‘Nuff said.



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



You've read this issue of Missouri Press News, but are you reading the emails you get from Missouri Press?

Missouri Press sends a LOT of email, we know, and while it is never our intention to spam your inboxes, sometimes there is a lot to share with our members. That's why we need your help in the new year.

First and most important, are you receiving emails from Missouri Press? Do you want to? Contact Editor Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com to get on the Association's email lists.

Second, are you opening the emails you receive? Missouri Press sends information about upcoming events, annual editorial and advertising contests, and resources, many of which are free, that you and your newspaper can take advantage of to better serve your readers.

Third, help us reach the people at your newspaper who need to get this information. Have them contact Missouri Press or send their emails to mbarba@mopress.com and we will add them to our mailing list.

Finally, if there have been any staff changes, updates to email addresses or any other reason why you might not be getting Missouri Press' emails when you previously were, let us know.

Here's to the start of a great new year for Missouri and its newspapers.

Generations of Missouri

Written by Carolyn Mueller | Illustrated by Philip Goudeau



2022 Newspapers in Education Serial Now Available

The Missouri Press Foundation and the National Newspaper Association Foundation are offering a new original free serial story to newspapers across the country for publication. This year we follow a family through many generations, participating in historic events from 1821 to the present. Chapter 1 is set in 1821, where a young girl and her father join others at the market in St. Louis on the banks of the Mississippi River to watch the announcement of Missouri achieving statehood. Descendants of this family are the main characters in the following chapters, watching or participating in important events that occurred within their lifetimes, including Dred Scott's freedom, the Eads Bridge connecting Illinois to Missouri, the 1904 World's Fair, the 19th Amendment, Churchill's Iron Curtain speech, the Arch Protest and the Flood of 1993. Each event had national impacts and so will resonate with newspapers across the country. This series will be offered free of charge to newspapers in Missouri and across the country, with publication beginning Jan. 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2022.

Visit *mo-nie.com* and use the download code: *generations* to access the teacher's guide and all eight chapters.

