

# MP MISSOURI PRESS NEWS

# CONGRATULATIONS

*to this year's Outstanding Young Journalists*



**Allison Kite**  
Missouri Independent



**Greta Cross**  
Springfield News-Leader



**Sophia Bales**  
Richmond News



**Samantha Tucker**  
Daily American Republic

**Nominations wanted for Missouri Press Association Board of Directors | P3**  
**Rock the look of your favorite musician at MPA's 157th Annual Convention | P4**  
**Show-Me Press' meeting topics include Sunshine Law, Q&A with AG's Office | P8**

## REGULAR FEATURES

<b>President .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Calendar .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Obituaries .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>On the Move .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Jean Maneke .....</b>	<b>18</b>



# Where are you located?

**O**n any given afternoon around 2:30, I find my way to a convenience store to make my Arnold Palmer. (FYI, at this time of day, it is the non-alcoholic version.)

Last week, the lucky C-store was Casey's on old Rt. 66, running right through the heart of Lebanon.

I was sitting in my car checking email on my phone when I saw a white van pull up beside me and around 12 young men in slacks and ties all started jumping out of the van. I watched them go into the store and thought they must be a robotics or speech and debate team.

I gave it a bit for them to get their snacks and drinks before I went in. I got my "beverage" and started up to the cashier, letting the kids get in front of me so they could all be together. The adult with the group joined them in line and I thought, it's time to ask about them.

It turns out they were a graphic design class. I asked the adult if he was the instructor and he said yes, as well as the principal. I wasn't sure if they were local or visiting so I asked, and they were from Lebanon, a local Christian school.

Me being me, I immediately introduced myself, you know, publisher of the local community newspaper, and made an offer for our graphics team to go to their school for a workshop or to have the students come to our office if that would work out better for them.

The principal (I didn't know his name at the time) said to me, where are you located? I know there was a dumbfounded pause from me, as I stared at him. I didn't answer his question, instead I asked him one, are you new in town?

Sadly, the answer was no, he truly did not know where the newspaper is located, in the town where he is a school principal.

I explained where we were, as the kids made it through the line and departed.

This upset me that he didn't know

*"I don't want to hear, where are you located from the people in my own community. Our staff needs to identify what we can do to become relevant to all our citizens."*

where we were located, and I stewed on it all the way back to the office. I shared the story with a few people in the office and we all stewed together.

I had enough of this negativity and went about work that accomplished something positive, sell, sell, sell, proof, edit, sell.

I did more thinking about the encounter that evening. I found I wasn't as miffed or angry as I was earlier but more perplexed how this could be.

The next morning, I made the decision to reach out to the principal. I called the school, found out his name from the office secretary, and asked to speak with him. He was not available, so I visited with the secretary and learned a bit of background on the principal, the school, and we ended up talking about graduation. The school hadn't been sending in their

students' graduation photos to the paper for the graduation section since she had been there. She remembered they once did, but they stopped some time back. I strongly encouraged her to start back up and we are running their three graduates in our section.

I then asked the question I knew the answer to, does the school subscribe to the paper. (If they don't know where we are, I know they don't subscribe) No surprise: no.

I set them up with a three-month free subscription, attention: The Principal.

The secretary thought that was very nice, but asked if it could wait until school started up. I smiled right into the phone and replied, well I believe that after you have three months in the summer you will want to subscribe to the newspaper for the benefit of your students, and staff.

I am going to reach out to the principal once school has been out a couple of weeks and see if he will give me the time to come by and visit with him.

It's not necessarily his fault he doesn't know where we are located, maybe the paper doesn't seem necessary to their lives. I hope that will change in the next three months.

I don't want to hear, where are you located from the people in my own community. Especially people who are in leadership roles of our community and our youth.

Our staff needs to identify what we can do to become relevant to all our citizens, that includes the private Christian school, the girl scout leaders, the president of the Lions Club and the retired school janitor.

What are you doing to make sure people know "where you're located"?





# Nominations wanted for MPA Board

## For Missouri Press News

The Missouri Press Association nominating committee will meet during the summer to decide on candidates for 2024 MPA Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors.

The terms of current directors Hannah Spaar, *The Odessan*, Odessa, Donna Bischoff, BridgeTower Media, St. Louis, and Sandy Nelson, *Courier Tribune*, Liberty, are expiring Dec. 31, 2023.

MPA Secretary Kimberly Combs, *Wayne County Journal-Banner*, Piedmont, and MPA Treasurer Mike Scott, NEMOnews Media Group, are serving one-year terms, also expiring Dec. 31, 2023.

Persons who wish to be considered

for any of the positions, including those persons whose terms are expiring, must complete a nomination form and return it to MPA by July 1.

A copy of the nomination form is available online or by contacting members of Missouri Press Staff.

Roger Dillon, *Shannon County Current Wave*, Eminence, immediate past president of MPA, is chairman of the nominating committee this year. Elections will be held during the MPA Business Meeting on Sept. 22, in St. Louis during MPA's 157th Annual Convention.

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact MPA Executive Director Mark Maassen at (573) 449-4167, ext. 308 or at [maassen@mopress.com](mailto:maassen@mopress.com).

## Capitol Report widget can come down

### From Missouri Press Staff

Due to staffing changes and a planned revamp of the project, Missouri Press members should remove the Capitol Report story collection from their websites.

A few members have asked, prompted by a lack of updated stories in the collection, so if the code is still active on your website and the widget is displaying, please feel free to remove it at this time.

The story collection, a collaborative effort between Missouri Press

members, the Missouri School of Journalism and the Reynolds Journalism Institute will likely return in the future with a specific plan to keep it updated during the legislative session but remove it when the General Assembly adjourns for the year.

If you have questions about the Capitol Report story collection, please contact MPA Editor Matthew Barba at [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com).

Thank you to all who installed the widget and helped Missouri Press staff navigate this project.



## CALENDAR

2023

June

15 — Missouri Press Foundation First Amendment Golf Classic, Hermann

16 — Missouri Press Board Meetings, Hermann

16 — Show-Me Press Meeting, Hermann

July

1 — Deadline to Submit Nominations for MPA Board of Directors

September

21-23 — MPA's 157th Annual Convention, Sheraton Westport Chalet, St. Louis

24-30 — Missouri Photo Workshop, Sedalia

October

19 — Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Columbia



**PRESIDENT:** Beth Durreman, *Laclede County Record*, Lebanon

**1st VICE PRES.:** Amos Bridges, *Springfield News-Leader*

**2nd VICE PRES.:** Peggy Scott, *Leader Publications*, Festus

**SECRETARY:** Kimberly Combs, *Wayne County Journal Banner*, Piedmont

**TREASURER:** Mike Scott, NEMO News Media Group, Kahoka

**NNA Representative:** Hannah Spaar, *The Odessan*, Odessa

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Mark Maassen

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR:** Ted Lawrence

**EDITOR:** Matthew Barba

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Roger Dillon, *Shannon County Current Wave*, Eminence

### DIRECTORS:

Donna Bischoff, *BridgeTower Media*, St. Louis

Gary Castor, *Jefferson City News Tribune*

Sandy Nelson, *The Courier-Tribune*, Liberty

Bryan Jones, *The Morgan County Statesman*, Versailles

Kevin Jones, *St. Louis American*

Tim Schmidt, *Montgomery Standard*, Montgomery City

Lucas Presson, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau

Bryan Chester, *Columbia Missourian*

**MISSOURI PRESS NEWS (ISSN 00266671)** is published monthly for \$15 per year by the Missouri Press Association, Inc., 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201-4888; phone (573) 449-4167; fax (573) 874-5894; email [mmaassen@mopress.com](mailto:mmaassen@mopress.com); website [www.mopress.com](http://www.mopress.com). Periodicals postage paid at Columbia, MO 65201-4888. (USPS No. 355620).

**POSTMASTER:** Please send changes of address to Missouri Press Association, 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201-4888.

# FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

## 157th Annual Missouri Press Convention & Tradeshow

Sheraton Westport  
St. Louis, Mo.

Thursday 6:30pm  
September 21, 2023

**\$59 PER  
PERSON**

**DESSERT  
AUCTION**



**BE THE CHAMPIONS OF YOUR COMMUNITY**

**DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE MUSICIAN**

**Food \* Costume Contest \* Drinks  
Live Music with Lost Dog Band**



# In pursuit of better communications with Missouri Press' members

**From Matthew Barba**

*Editor of Missouri Press News*

For years Missouri Press has used a third-party distribution system to send mass emails to its members, but they didn't always make it to your inbox. In the next few weeks, we're going to start doing something a little differently for some of the emails we send you.

Email distribution systems (The one we use is called Hatchbuck.) have their benefits, such as contact management and the ability to track who receives and even opens our emails. They also allow you, the recipient, to "opt out" and no longer receive our emails.

While I can understand you might not want "Flash News!" items cluttering your inbox, it also means you don't get other important notifications via email. For example, you might miss when we start collecting advertising agreements or the prompts to enter the advertising and editorial contests.

There are downsides to these systems, too, mainly that oftentimes emails get marked as spam or junk. These emails are filtered away from your inbox and left to languish unread in places many of us forget to check far too often.

On rare occasions, the system can flag an email address as being invalid and no longer include you as a recipient.



There's not much we can do about that, except add a different email address to the database and try again.

So, here's what Missouri Press is doing differently to ensure you get the information you need as a member of the Association. We have put together a new mailing list outside of the confines of that third-party distribution system based on the info you provided for the latest newspaper directory.

It will only be for Association-related communication, such as calls to action related to legislation in Jefferson City, requests for agreement forms to receive advertising and prompts for Missouri Press events.

Why an open letter in the magazine? Because I take the Association's role of communicating with its members seriously, either through the magazine, our newsletters, our website or the emails we send. I want you to be aware that this change is coming, to look for these emails and if, for some reason you previously "unsubscribed" from our mailing lists, why emails are suddenly coming through.

If you have any questions about this change, including which emails we currently have on the list for your publication(s), please feel free to reach out at mbarba@mopress.com or (573) 449-4167, ext. 302.

I'm always happy to answer questions you might have about what we do, what we send and why.



## Missouri Press Foundation

*These individuals and/or organizations made recent contributions to Missouri Press Foundation.  
For more information about supporting the Foundation's mission and programs,  
please contact Michael Harper at (573) 449-4167, ext. 303.*

### **Recurring Monthly Donor — Martha Pickens**

**Summer Internship Donations —** Carol Aholt, Jerald & Giana Andrews, Clyde Bentley, Alan Berner, Jim & Debbie Forbes, Bill Hankins, Greg Jackson, Bill & Jackie Miller, Daryl Moen, Mound City News, Tom Schultz, Janice Shuck, Randall & Joyce Smith, Gary & Helen Sosniecki, John Standard, Dane & Sharene Vernon, Pamela Wingo

# Celebrate Missouri Press' Outstanding Young Journalists at this year's Convention



**Sophia Bales**



**Greta Cross**



**Allison Kite**



**Samantha Tucker**

*Reporters are selected for demonstrating professional excellence in quality, ethics and standards.*

## **From Missouri Press Staff**

Marking its commitment to recognize journalistic excellence each year, Missouri Press Association has selected four journalists from across the state to receive the William E. James Outstanding Young Journalist award.

Beth Durreman, president of MPA, announced Sophia Bales of Richmond, Greta Cross of Springfield, Allison Kite of Kansas City and Samantha Tucker of Poplar Bluff will receive their awards Sept. 23, in St. Louis, during the Association's 157th Annual Convention and Trade Show awards luncheon.

"This is the 15th year for these awards and the 11th it has been named in honor of our late colleague, William E. James," said Durreman, publisher of the *Laclede County Record*, Lebanon. "As we see a fundamental shift in how our profession operates, Missouri Press believes it is critical to recognize and celebrate young talent at every opportunity.

"This year, we're recognizing four individuals, two from daily newspapers, one from a weekly and another whose work with a web-based media outlet benefits all of Missouri Press' members," Durreman said. "The Missouri Press Association recognizes Sophia, Greta, Allison and Samantha for their excellent news reporting, reader engagement and a dedication to holding to account those in power."

## **Sophia Bales**

The first experience Sophia Bales had with newspapers was in May 2022, fresh out of Missouri Valley College with a degree in entrepreneurship. Having started her own bounce house business (that continues to thrive)



**Sophia Bales interviews Cathy Gootch, Ray County Museum curator. Bales is the *Richmond News*' only full-time reporter, starting at the newspaper in 2022. While she went to school to study entrepreneurship, Bales has fully committed the energy and passion needed to be a successful community journalist. (Submitted photo/Sharon Donat — *Richmond News*)**

in high school and at the same time competed as a state powerlifter, Bales showed early on she was motivated and willing to put in the work that local journalism requires.

**Continued on Page 7**

## Continued from Page 6

"She had no previous journalism experience but threw herself into the role and has never looked back," wrote General Manager Sharon Donat in Bales' nomination letter. "There is not an assignment she won't tackle, from community events to drug busts. Sophia is not afraid to ask questions, do the research and get the complete story."

As the *Richmond News'* only full-time reporter, Bales is tasked each week with ensuring the newspaper is full of content. She is also an assistant coach for a new powerlifting team in nearby Lexington.

Bales is always striving to learn and help others at the newspaper, Donat wrote, and the young reporter's growth has been "truly amazing and we are all very proud of her progress."

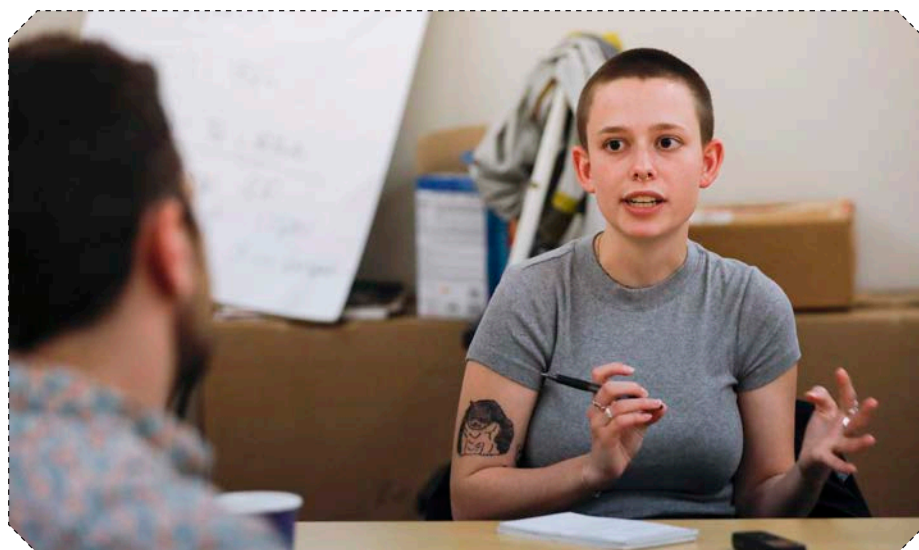
"Sophia's personality could fill a gymnasium and then some. She is the light of our office, as well as the community in which she works," Donat added. "I believe the best journalists immerse themselves in their work and the communities they serve. Ray County citizens, community leaders and law enforcement have all embraced her and share stories and news with her on a regular basis."

### Greta Cross

Greta Cross joined the *Springfield News-Leader* in January 2022, but it was her experience as editor-in-chief of *The Standard*, Missouri State University's student-run newspaper that helped her stand out when being considered for a professional position.

"Taking the reins in May 2020, she got to captain the ship as *The Standard* navigated the pandemic and transitioned from a weekly print publication to a digital-only news operation (with a remote newsroom, to boot)," wrote Editor Amos Bridges in Cross' nomination letter. "For Greta, that was not a defeat but a challenge, and over the following year she guided the 50-plus student staff as they implemented and designed weekly newsletters and launched a podcast series."

Bridges said Cross brought her intrepidity and passion to the *News-Leader*, where she has served the last



**Greta Cross, Trending Topics reporter for the *Springfield News-Leader*, conducts an interview on the future uses of artificial intelligence. She has repeatedly shown her editors she is interested in tracking down stories that might otherwise get missed from all areas of southwest Missouri. (Submitted photo/Nathan Papes — *Springfield News-Leader*)**

year as the newspaper's Trending Topics reporter. In her first year she's written about Black film students' efforts to capture college life in a web series, the history of Springfield's drag scene, and a 90-year-old homeless man's journey toward stability. Along the way she catalogued corners of the wider Ozarks, as well, telling stories from Joplin and Cassville, all the way over to Shannon County.

"A lesser reporter might settle for chasing stories that are already generating buzz, but Greta took seriously her editors' challenge to seek out the under-represented corners of our community and tell their stories, too," Bridges wrote. "Here's some of the highest praise I can offer: Numerous retired journalists from the Springfield community — folks like long-time editor Mike O'Brien, and Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Famer Bob Linder — have made a point of reaching out with compliments."

### Allison Kite

From Allison Kite's first days covering one of the state's biggest political stories in recent history, she has established herself as a dynamo in government reporting, both for *The Kansas City Star* and now with the *Missouri Independent*.

*Independent* Editor Jason Hancock recalled Kite being dispatched to

Jefferson City in spring 2018 just days after being hired as a business reporter for *The Star*.

"The impeachment of Gov. Eric Greitens was in full swing, and the statehouse bureau was drowning in the deluge of news," Hancock wrote in his nomination letter. "Allison agreed to parachute in to help, and it didn't take long for her to establish herself as a force in state government journalism. That was my first opportunity to work with Allison, but over the next few years I got to witness up close her sharp news instincts, dazzling writing skills and dogged reporting."

After the launch of the *Missouri Independent* in 2020, Hancock said he made it a goal to get Kite on the statewide news outlet's team. She finally joined in 2021.

"She has a talent for seeing all the moving parts of a story and translating often technically dense topics into compelling prose for our readers. A fearless reporter, she isn't afraid of tackling big stories, and has a knack for juggling daily news and long-term enterprise," Hancock wrote. "Just last year, she conceived of and spearheaded our Unleaded project in collaboration with NPR's Midwest Newsroom, a multi-part investigation of high levels of lead in children in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska."

**Continued on Page 8**



## Continued from Page 7:

### *OYJ award recipients embody the standards outlined in Walter Williams' Journalist's Creed.*



Allison Kite interviews Kristy Trevathan, a member of the Missouri Master Naturalists, near Monroe City for a story by the *Missouri Independent* on groups working to reestablish prairies in Missouri. Kite's journalistic talents include being able to distill technically dense topics into compelling prose for readers of news outlets all over the state. (Submitted photo/Rebecca Rivas — *Missouri Independent*)

Kite's work as the *Independent's* data reporter adds value to her colleagues' coverage, Hancock wrote, but she is also "a wonderful coworker, bringing enthusiasm to everything she does and a level of energy to our staff that is impossible to put a value on."

#### **Samantha Tucker**

Believing in the mission of community journalism to inform and support a newspaper's readership, Samantha Tucker has proven time and again through her coverage that local reporting makes a difference in people's lives.

Tucker's dedication to entertain and educate readers has taken her from paginator and reporter at her hometown newspaper to assistant editor of the *Daily American Republic* in Poplar Bluff.

**Concluded on Page 9**

**Google Analytics 4: How to navigate the changes and find the data you need**

## **Online Zoom Training**

**Thursday, June 22 | 10AM**

**Presented by: Elizabeth Stephens**

*Executive Editor, Columbia Missourian and  
Missouri School of Journalism Chair for Community  
Newspaper Management*

**FREE Registration  
for all MPA Members!**

**Register now:  
<https://bit.ly/3NXZsrk>**

**Sponsored By:**

Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives

**MPAME**



## Continued from Page 8

Tucker joined the five-day-a-week *DAR* in September 2021 as a reporter, a stark contrast to the eastern Illinois weekly *The Prairie Press* where she got her journalism start in 2017. “She has taken on every task with both enthusiasm and skill,” wrote Editor Donna Farley in Tucker’s nomination letter.

“Samantha brings the same level of dedication to every story, whether it’s trial coverage of a former county coroner accused of business fraud or a photojournalism assignment to cover an upcoming community play,” Farley continued.

Tucker took on newsroom leadership duties in 2022, working to help the newspaper develop new strategies for engaging the community and helping co-workers learn new tasks. She has also embraced her new southeast Missouri home by volunteering and by ensuring her work has tangible benefits for the people she covers.

“In the community, Samantha volunteers with the local animal shelter and helps set the example of the community-minded spirit we write about,” Farley’s letter states. “Her articles have helped save a local community theatre group’s production from closing, raise money for many worthy causes, inform our community on election, government and criminal investigations, and celebrate the many good things that happen in our area.”



**Samantha Tucker, middle, and staff writer Misty DeJournett represent the Daily American Republic as they volunteer for the annual Santa Land in Poplar Bluff, which provides Christmas crafts and activities for area children. Tucker has repeatedly shown a willingness to support causes in the community that go beyond her work in the newsroom. (Submitted photo/Donna Farley — Daily American Republic)**

Winners of the William E. James Outstanding Young Journalist Award have demonstrated excellence in the field of journalism and maintained the quality, ethics and standards of The Journalist’s Creed, written by Walter Williams, founding dean of the Missouri School of Journalism.

During the Missouri Press Foundation Better Newspaper Contest awards luncheon, Sept. 23, at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel in St. Louis, winners will be presented a plaque and a \$500 check.

Editors or publishers submit nominations for the awards and nominees must have been younger

than 30 years old on Jan. 1, 2023. The aim of the award is to reinforce the importance of a journalist’s role by recognizing and nurturing talent to further promote quality journalism.

William E. “Bill” James, the namesake for this award, served as publisher of the *Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal* from November 2007 until his death in November 2013. He was publisher of the *Cass County Democrat-Missourian* in Harrisonville from 1985 to 2000 and was president of the Missouri Press Association in 1998. He was inducted into the MPA Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2001.

# Teach your new staff the fundamentals of journalism

## From Missouri Press Staff

Missouri Press Association member newspapers now have access to a new training tool in the form of Earn Your Press Pass, a web-based course that teaches the fundamentals of journalism. The course is being provided to all Missouri Press members at no cost.

The course provides new hires the information and structure they need to sit down and complete lessons that teach the basics of good journalism. Everything from common newspaper terminology to story writing

to media laws are covered in the materials.

Not intended as a college-level course, the goal of Earn Your Press Pass is to impart practical, usable knowledge. Lessons are designed to take the layperson to a functioning newspaper reporter upon completion.

Learn more at [earnyourpresspass.com](http://earnyourpresspass.com) and find out what the course can offer your publication and staff.

To sign up for the course and get added to the Missouri Press group, send an email to [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com) or [kfortier@mopress.com](mailto:kfortier@mopress.com).



## Hannibal

### Jack Whitaker

John Raymond "Jack" Whitaker, 77, of Hannibal died May 12, 2023, at Harry S. Truman VA Hospital in Columbia.

He was a proud member of the United States Air Force, serving during the Vietnam War. He left the service in 1970 while stationed in San Antonio, Texas.

Prior to his retirement in 2011, Whitaker was publisher of the *Hannibal Courier-Post*. While there, he served several years on the Missouri Press Board of Directors, including as president of the Association in 2008.

He also worked at several newspapers in Texas, including the



*Houston Post*, *Dallas Times Herald* and the *Lubbock Avalanche Journal*. During his professional career in Texas, he served as president of the Texas Circulation Managers Association.

His involvement within the Hannibal community included more than 20 years as a former board member and past president of the Hannibal Regional Health Care System Board.

In addition to Sarah, his wife of 55 years, he is survived by five children, Bryan, Brad, Brett, Jennifer and Christopher; a brother, Michael; 15 grandchildren; and many more family, friends and industry colleagues.

## Harrisonville

### Jane Lemmer



Sarah "Jane" Lemmer, 73, of Harrisonville, MO, died April 26, 2023, at her home.

A lifelong Cass County resident, she started her career as a typesetter and went to work for the *Cass County Democrat-Missourian* newspaper for 31 years. At the time of her death, she worked for the *Tribune and Times* newspaper.

Her dedication to her work at the newspaper was such that even after an accident that caused injuries to her head and broke her shoulder, she continued her duties if at a slower pace, according to Dennis Minich, publisher of the *Tribune and Times*. Minich told readers that Lemmer was insistent she would get the week's work done, but the next day he learned of her death from Lemmer's husband.

Still, when Minich later opened his email, he found several items that Lemmer had already typed up. He told readers with Lemmer's loss, "Our newspaper will never be the same."

Lemmer is survived by her husband, Bob; two children, Vonda Kay and Bob; nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; and many more family and friends.

## Columbia

### Laura Schiermeier

Laura Ann Schiermeier, 64, of Columbia, formerly of Vienna, died May 10, 2023, surrounded by family.

A graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism, Schiermeier served as editor of the *Maries County Gazette* from 1983-1987, stepping away to focus on her family and a photography business she ran with her husband. She returned to the newspaper in 2007.

She was asked to join the *Maries County Advocate* when it started in



2016 and remained there until retiring in October 2022.

Her dedication to the Maries County community included volunteering with the Maries County Historical Society, Heartland Regional Library board, and Visitation Catholic Church.

In addition to Stan, her husband of 41 years, she is survived by four children, Morgan, Hannah, Trevor and Emma; six grandchildren; and many more family, friends and newspaper colleagues.

## Vass, N.C.

### Tim Williams

Timothy Martin Williams, 75, of Vass, N.C., and formerly a Missouri newspaper publisher, died May 3, 2023, of post-surgery complications.

In 1971, after graduating from the Missouri School of Journalism, he became the youngest newspaper publisher in the country when he purchased the *Lawrence County Record* in Mt. Vernon.

Williams was tapped in 1989 as executive director of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Association, now Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association. He remained there 22 years.

He is survived by five siblings, Don, Teresa, Ted, Jim and Matt, and numerous more family and friends from across the country.







# Show-Me

PRESS ASSOCIATION

## Annual Meeting | June 16, 2023 | Hermann, MO

**11:30AM** Lunch at the Wurst Haus | 234 E. 1st Street, Hermann

**MEETING AT TIN MILL RESTAURANT | CELEBRATION ROOM | 315 E. 1ST Street, Hermann**

**12:30PM** Small Towns, Big Stories: Photojournalism in Missouri with Brian Kratzer

**1:30PM** What Does the Future of Newspapers Look Like? Open Discussion of New Technologies and Software, Led by Show-Me Board Members

**2:00PM** Legislative and Marijuana Advertising Update with Mark Maassen & Jean Maneke

**2:15PM** Break

**2:30PM** Sunshine Law Presentation with Jay Turner of the Missouri Attorney General's Office

**3:30PM** Q & A Session with Missouri Attorney General's Office

**4:00PM** Meeting Adjourns

**4:15PM** Happy Hour at Hofgarten/Black Shire Pavilion, Appetizers & Tasting | 111 Gutenberg St.

***\$40 Per Person Including Lunch & Happy Hour***

**Register Online: <https://bit.ly/3gCMAZF>**

**Staying Overnight? Email Kristie Fortier at [kfortier@mopress.com](mailto:kfortier@mopress.com) for**

**The MO Press Assn. Rate of \$149**

# MPAME meets in Springfield



Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives held its annual meeting in April at the Hotel Vandivort in downtown Springfield. The group spent a day and a half sharing ideas, learning and celebrating each other. In addition to lots

of knowledge, attendees took home their awards from the Best Ad Contest and capped the evening off with drinks at a local piano bar. You can find more pictures from the event on Missouri Press' Facebook page. (Staff photos)



MPAME President Gina Langston, right, presents Pamela Simmons of the *St. Louis American* with the Dee Hamilton Memorial Sales Pro of the Year award. Simmons was noted for her hard work during the coronavirus pandemic, which resulted in the *American* performing well financially and ensured no staff were laid off at the time.

## From Missouri Press Staff

The Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives will again be led by Gina Langston of the *Joplin Globe* as she goes into her second year as president, following the group's meeting in April held at the Hotel Vandivort in Springfield.

A full listing of the MPAME officers and directors is available on page 17 of this month's Missouri Press News.

More photos from the MPAME meeting are available through Missouri Press' Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/missouri.press>.

You can also join the MPAME Facebook group. Find it by searching for "Missouri Advertising and Marketing Executives" on Facebook.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with MPAME, please contact a board member or Kristie Fortier at [kfortier@mopress.com](mailto:kfortier@mopress.com) or by phone at (574) 449-4167.

The location for next year's MPAME meeting has been set for Branson. Please stay tuned to Missouri Press' emails and newsletters for more information about next year's meeting and Best Ad Contest.



# More from MPAME's meeting



Above, a series of roundtable discussions capped the Friday morning portion of MPAME's April meeting, covering topics including employee retention, reader engagement and selling interactive content.

Below, during the Friday morning roundtable discussions at MPAME's meeting in Springfield, attendees were able to get hands on and share tips of the trade with their fellow advertising colleagues. (Staff photos)



At left, attendees of the Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives meeting came from all across the state. On Friday, they were able share and discuss during a series of roundtable discussions, which came after a Thursday afternoon session when those present were invited to show off their best advertising ideas.

More photos from the MPAME meeting are available through Missouri Press' Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/missouri.press>.



Above, Laura Koch, a senior designer with Metro Creative Graphics, presented twice during MPAME's annual meeting in Springfield. Koch talked about spec ads with attendees and covered special sections, including discussing several members' work. At right, Koch looks over some advertising designs with Tara Alumbaugh between sessions at MPAME's meeting in Springfield.



# *Open Records Reporting:* **Treasurer wants to be part of closed session meetings**

**By Amy England**

*From Three Rivers Publishing*

In her latest complaint to the Crawford County Commission, Treasurer Karen Sikes told them she wants to be included in their closed session meetings in the future.

She told them she attends most of their meetings and wants to be better informed. She questioned why Road District #1 Foreman Danny Brown had been included in closed meetings and she was not. "He's not even an elected official," she said.

District #1 Commissioner Rob Cummings responded, "My reasons basically don't concern you. I can request anybody we want to stay at the closed meeting."

His counterpart, District #2 Commissioner Jared Boast, added, "Everyone needs to remember this is the Crawford County Commission meeting. There will be certain things at certain times that will need to be in closed session. I appreciate everyone's participation in these meetings, but ultimately it is the Crawford County Commission meeting. If we have a closed meeting, we can invite or disinvite anyone we want to that meeting." He added that some things need to be addressed in private.

Presiding Commissioner Steve Black noted that litigation, real estate, and personnel are reasons the commissioners could decide to go into a closed session and ask others to leave the public meeting. Referring to the previous week's closure of the meeting to the public, he said, "We have the right to say yea or nay to closed session. The prosecutor requested closed session so that's what we did."

Black added his wish for more peace and cooperation at the meetings. "Our meetings have tension a lot of times," he said. "Hopefully, we can have a more relaxed situation in these meetings. That would be great, I think."

Missouri Sunshine Law (Chapter 610 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri) is the "Open Meetings and Records Law." While this law is intended to bring transparency and fairness to all aspects of government, there are provisions for limited instances where meetings, records, and votes may be closed.

RSMo. 610.021 gives 24 topics that may be discussed in a closed meeting and retained as a closed record. The most commonly addressed by the county commission



**Cuba Free Press | Saint James Press  
Steelville Star-Crawford Mirror**

have included legal actions; leasing, purchase or sale of real estate; and hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees or individually identifiable personnel records. There is also provision to close meetings to discuss specifications for competitive bidding, confidential communications with an auditor, operational guidelines, policies and specific response plans for public safety, and for security systems, along with a number of other reasons not often utilized by the commission.

Treasurer Sikes has a history of criticisms of the commission, dating back to her first days in office in 2019 when she came to a commission meeting with a written statement she had prepared that included a list of complaints about her office. At that time, she stated, "It has been five months since the voters of this county elected me to be their treasurer. This was more than enough time for the previous treasurer, the commissioners, and the county clerk to have prepared the office so that I could start my duties on January 2."

In more recent months, she has alleged that county investments of excess funds are illegal, has questioned road and bridge maintenance and employee salaries and skills several times, and whether health department positions have been filled. She often interjects questions or comments during commission discussion at meetings.

*This article was originally published May 18, 2023, in the Cuba Free Press. In honor of the Sunshine Law's 50th anniversary this year, Missouri Press News is sharing the efforts of Association members who raise awareness about the law, including through reporting that highlights an effective application of open records statutes to further inform readers. This includes reporting that expands on the law's purpose beyond noticing meetings of public bodies and ways the law is applied to elected officials.*

If you or another member has published a column, editorial or news story that discusses the importance of the Sunshine Law, consider sending it to [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com) to be reprinted in a future issue of your Association's magazine.



# Resources to get your story started



**Every Business Needs  
an Online Presence.**

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



**The Missouri Bar**  
Jefferson City • 573-635-4128  
Find us on Twitter @mobarnews,  
on Facebook.com/MissouriBar



For information  
about agriculture  
or issues affecting  
rural Missouri call  
573.893.1468.



For all things medical in Missouri,  
turn to the experts at the  
Missouri State Medical Association.

Lizabeth Fleenor  
800-869-6762 • lfleenor@msma.org  
www.msma.org

## 2,913,035

NEWSPAPERS mailed weekly  
through Interlink's  
postal presort.

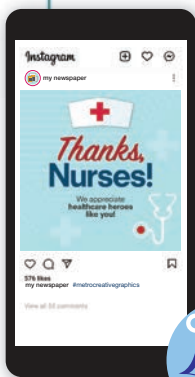
**Learn why we are  
newspaper mail experts.**



HOW NEWSPAPERS DO MAIL™

www.ilsww.com | 888-473-3103 | info@ilsww.com

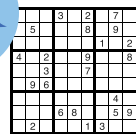
## “ I didn't know you had this! ”



- PRINT & DIGITAL SPEC ADS
- ARTICLES & RECIPES
- PUZZLES & HOROSCOPES
- SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS
- CUSTOMER REQUESTS
- FREE WEBINARS

*& so much more*

**FREE  
TRIAL  
OFFER!**



## METRO

CREATE. SELL. PROFIT.

800-223-1600  
service@metro-email.com  
metrocreativeconnection.com

Visit [metrocreativeconnection.com](http://metrocreativeconnection.com) to see all we offer!

## ON THE MOVE



Mexico — Dennis Sharkey has joined the *Ledger* as its new editor, responsible for the newspaper's editorial focus and news coverage. Before joining the *Ledger*, he launched and operated a website that covered four high schools in the north Kansas City area.

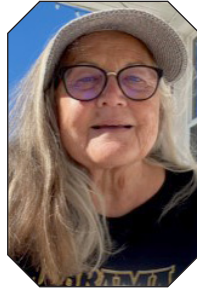


With a journalism degree from Northwest Missouri State University, Sharkey has also spent time as editor of the *Platte County Citizen*, *Mound City News* and the *Oskaloosa, Kan. Independent*.

Sharkey told readers in the announcement for his hiring, "A great local newspaper is critical to keeping readers informed but it also is a great place to showcase all of the things happening in the community. My goals are to not only keep our readers informed but to also lift their spirits with entertaining and thoughtful

stories and photos."

Stockton — Pat Hindman has been named editor of the *Cedar County Republican*, where she had previously worked for two years as a part-time reporter. She also has experience working as a daily newspaper reporter, weekly newspaper editor and in teaching journalism.



Publisher Deanna Moore told readers in announcing Hindman as editor, "Pat has done a great job in reporting for the newspaper and has expressed a passion and devotion to our community."

Hindman added each role has had unique challenges but her goal in Stockton is to ensure readers of the *Republican* have access to non-biased news of interest. "I hope readers will find me to be relational and relatable."

Washington — Antjea Wolff has joined the *Missourian's* newsroom as a general assignment reporter, coming to the newspaper from *The Morning Sun* in Pittsburg, Kan. Earning her degree in English with an emphasis in creative writing, Wolff started as a freelancer in 2021 before being hired full-time less than a month after her first story was published.



Wolff has won awards for her work as a reporter and for her work as a poet, and some of her poetry has been published in *Snakeroot Zine*. For the past four years, she helped organize various creative arts festivals in Pittsburg, Kan., including Pittsburg ArtWalk.

In addition to contributing to the *Missourian's* news coverage, Wolff said she is looking forward to exploring the Franklin County area and meeting new people.

## NPG selling printing facility, regional newspapers

### From St. Joseph News-Press reports

News-Press & Gazette Company announced in late April it agreed to sell its newspapers outside of St. Joseph, along with its commercial printing facility located in the city, to Parsippany, New Jersey-based company, CherryRoad Media. The sale does not include the *St. Joseph News-Press* and is expected to be finalized no later than June 1.

In Missouri, the sale includes the *Courier-Tribune*, *Liberty* and *Gladstone Dispatch*. CherryRoad already owned the *South Missourian News*, Thayer; *The Marshall Democrat-News*; *The Independence Examiner*; *Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune*; *Boonville Daily News*; and *Linn County Leader*, Marcelline.

CherryRoad Media, a division of parent company CherryRoad Technologies, owns and operates 78 community newspapers in 15 states and has been among the most acquisition-minded companies during the past two years. The company has said the newspaper is an essential resource for developing strong communities, and that it can leverage technology to supplement the printed newspaper with enhanced digital capabilities.



### Jeff shakes Jeff

Jeff Schrag, formerly the chief executive officer and founder of Mother's Brewing Company, shakes hands with new owner Jeff Seifried during a press conference in the Mother's TapRoom in early May. In stepping away from the brewery (he will remain a minority owner), Schrag said he wishes to spend more time with his three grandchildren and travel with his wife, Mary. Schrag is also publisher of the *Springfield Daily Events* newspaper. He served as president of Missouri Press Association in 2017 and currently serves on the board of Missouri Press Service. (Submitted photo/Nathan Papes — Springfield News-Leader)





# Missouri Newspaper Organizations

---

**SHOW-ME PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, Roxie Murphy, Maries County Advocate; Directors: Hannah Spaar, The Odessan, Odessa; Gary Castor, Jefferson City News Tribune; Tim Schmidt, Westplex Media; Jacob Warden, Warden Publishing.

**OZARK PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, Ron Schott, Wright County Journal; Vice President, Amanda Mendez, Howell County News; Secretary-Treasurer, Norene Proski, Ozark County Times, Gainesville. Directors: Steve Pokin, Springfield Daily Citizen; Shelby Atkison, Marshfield Mail; Kimball Long, El Dorado Springs Sun; and Dan Wehmer, Webster County Citizen, Seymour.

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, Lucas Presson, Cape Girardeau; Second Vice President, Tamara Buck, Cape Girardeau; Secretary-Treasurer, Gina Raffety, Jackson; Historian, Peggy Scott, Festus. Directors: Kim Combs, Piedmont; and Jay Forness, Jackson.

**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.

**MISSOURI PRESS ADVERTISING & MARKETING EXECUTIVES:** President, Gina Langston, Joplin; First Vice President, Stephanie Vandeven, Perryville; Secretary-Treasurer, Kristie Fortier, Columbia. Directors: Bryan Chester, Columbia; Jennifer Early, Lebanon; Stephanie Fitzgerald, Washington; Karl Giddens, Columbia; Robin Gregg, Paris; Kevin Jones, St. Louis.

**MISSOURI PRESS SERVICE:** President, Liz Irwin, St. Louis; Vice President, Trevor Vernon, Eldon; Secretary-Treasurer, James White, Warsaw. Directors: Jeff Schrag, Springfield; Dennis Warden, Owensville.

**MISSOURI PRESS FOUNDATION, INC.:** President, Brian Brooks, Columbia; Vice President, Dave Berry, Bolivar; Secretary-Treasurer, Doug Crews, Columbia. Directors: Kathy Conger, Bethany; Amos Bridges, Springfield; Laura White Erdel, Columbia; Wendell Lenhart, Trenton; Joseph Martineau, St. Louis; Joe May, Mexico; Bill Miller, Sr., Washington; Jim Robertson, Columbia; Vicki Russell, Columbia; Jean Snider, Harrisonville; John Spaar, Odessa; James Sterling, Columbia; Paul Stevens, Lenexa; Beth Pike, Columbia; and Ruby Bailey, Columbia. Director Emeritus: Rogers Hewitt, Shelbyville.

**MISSOURI COLLEGE MEDIA ASSOCIATION:** President, Nathan Gladden, Southeast Missouri State University; Vice President, Genevieve Tlustos, Truman State University; Secretary, Caitlin Smith, Evangel University; Adviser, Tamara Zellars Buck, Southeast Missouri State University; and MPA Liaison, Jack Dimond, Missouri State University.

# U.S. Supreme Court decisions boost 'Section 230' foundation for online publishers

The U.S. Supreme Court issued two opinions, related in their subject, in mid-May that have generated a lot of discussion among the legal community. It seems prudent to share a few of the thoughts that have crossed my desk with all of you, because these are based on an issue that you struggle with on occasion.

All of you confront comments posted to stories and in other social media forums online. Since 1996, the law we know informally as "Section 230" has provided some protection for us, as publishers, in regard to comments others post on our online sites. Back when that law was passed, Congress sought to provide immunity for online interactive computer services as part of the Communications Decency Act. The goal was to treat online service providers as distributors of content, like bookstores, rather than as print publishers who are responsible for the printed content.

Section 230 not only is a defense to you against those who might post on your site, but it also functions as a sword for your use, when your content shows up on third party sites. Sometimes it works well, and other times not so well. In the last year or two, I've had cases where I've assisted a publisher in sending a "take down" notice to the host of a website advising that there is copyrighted material posted on that site. Section 230 creates a process that, upon receipt of such a notice, the website manager makes inquiry and if certain defense protections are not given to the website manager, that manager then may take down the infringing content.

But that "take down" aspect was not the focus of the recent Supreme Court analysis. The two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court decided in mid-May which addressed the Section 230 protection dealt with responsibility

*"Some of our newspapers do actively moderate content and perhaps even attempt to control what is posted on social media, but to be honest, it is to your benefit to do moderation with a very light hand, if any."*

for the content third parties post on your site.

One, known as the Gonzalez v Google case, involved an American student killed in 2015 in Paris in the course of an Islamic State terrorist attack. His family alleged that Google was used by these terror advocates to target an attack on a Turkish nightclub in Paris, and therefore it had some liability, as its actions were in concert with the terrorists and therefore were in support of their acts.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in its decision, concluded that the plaintiffs' allegations against Google were identical to those in a companion case also decided the same day, Twitter v Taamneh, involving a terrorist attack in Istanbul that killed a member of the defendant's family. That family sued Facebook, Twitter and Google (owner of YouTube, the social media entity targeted here).

The parties agreed in the underlying lawsuit that they did profit off the content on their social media apps, and also that they did not attempt to significantly monitor or censor the content that was posted. But the key for the court was whether there was evidence that the social media entity "aided and abetted" in the attack and therefore had some potential joint liability for the outcome.

The Supreme Court held that the act of providing this online social media forum was not sufficient "assistance" to create guilt or liability on the part of the publisher. This lack of screening done by the social media entity as to the content posted on its site by the terrorists was a critical factor in this decision – there was no evidence of any active effort by the social media entities to further the terrorists' causes. Most important: Transmitting information was not knowingly giving assistance to anyone.

This group of decisions from the Supreme Court strengthens the foundation on which Section 230's defense rests.

Some of our newspapers do actively moderate content and perhaps even attempt to control what is posted on social media, but to be honest, it is to your benefit to do moderation with a very light hand, if any.

The more you attempt to police your social media content, the more you potentially could be found to have "knowingly given assistance" to anyone advocating a position on your website.



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





## *Are you building your skills with Digiversity.tv?*

We've told you at least a dozen times that as a member of Missouri Press Association, you and your newspaper have free access to Russell Viers' Adobe Creative Cloud training website, Digiversity.tv.

Russell touts his goal with the website as helping designers and graphic artists make the hard days easier by providing complete answers and solutions to everyday challenges and more.

But what if you're not a graphic designer or artist? What if you or someone on your staff needs to be able to open up an InDesign file and make a quick adjustment? Could you do it? Could anyone on your staff?

With Digiversity.tv, you can give yourself and your staff the know-how to be comfortable poking around in InDesign files without being nervous something will get broken beyond repair.

Here's a thought, if you aren't already, shoot an email to [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com) to get signed up.

After you make your account, go to Digiversity.tv and on the front page, select "TV Guide" at the top of the screen, then from that drop-down menu, select "Series." At the very bottom of the Series page, look for "InDesign Kindergarten" to get started with the basics of navigating the program.

From there, you can discover the other topics Russell covers, including an "Illustrator Kindergarten" series of videos.

### **How to sign up:**

Go online to  
[bit.ly/DigiversityMPA](https://bit.ly/DigiversityMPA)  
OR

email Matthew Barba at  
[mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com).

Check your spam and junk folders just in case the activation email ends up there.

The best part of Digiversity.tv, of course, is there no cost for you and all your staff to sign up. It is a benefit of your membership with Missouri Press Association.

Missouri Press will provide access through the end of 2023. There is no cost to the newspaper, but it is preferred every staffer using the website signs up with a unique email address.

In addition to the training and explaining, Viers regularly answers viewers' questions, so feel free to reach out to Viers directly at [russell@digiversity.tv](mailto:russell@digiversity.tv).



Tee your  
team up  
today!



June 15, 2023  
11 am Lunch  
Noon Shotgun Start

# 2023 First Amendment Golf Classic

## The Loutre Shore Country Club • Hermann, MO

\$75 per player or \$300 per foursome | Register online at [bit.ly/mopressgolf](https://bit.ly/mopressgolf)



CLOSEST TO THE PIN CONTEST *Take a shot for your chance to win!*

### FUN FOR TWO IN BRANSON

**2 NIGHTS**  
AT HILTONS  
OF BRANSON

**2 PASSES**  
TO AQUARIUM AT  
THE BOARDWALK

**2 TICKETS**  
TO DOLLY PARTON'S  
STAMPEDE

**2 TICKETS**  
THE HAYGOODS  
MUSIC SHOW



*Branson*  
MISSOURI

[ExploreBranson.com](https://ExploreBranson.com)

