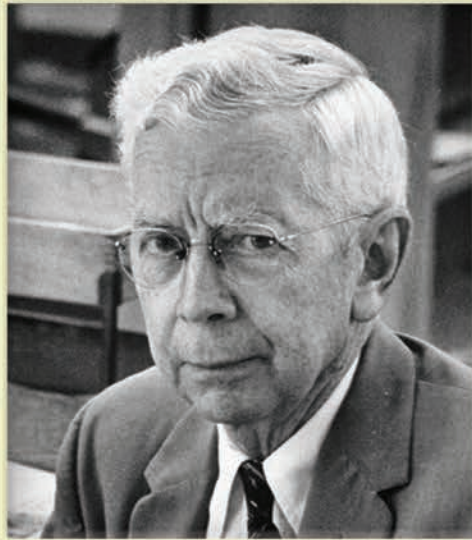


MP MISSOURI PRESS NEWS

*Join in celebrating the
2023 Hall of Fame
inductees in St. Louis! | P4*



REGULAR FEATURES

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MPA's slate of 2024 officers, directors finalized

From Missouri Press Staff

The Missouri Press Association Nominating Committee met recently, finalizing a slate of MPA officers and directors for 2024, effective Jan. 1.

The election of MPA officers and directors is scheduled for the annual MPA business meeting Friday, Sept. 22, during the 157th Annual Convention at the Westport Sheraton Chalet Hotel in St. Louis.

Candidates proposed by the nominating committee are:

- 2024 President, Amos Bridges, *Springfield News-Leader*.
- First Vice President, Peggy Scott, Leader Publications, Festus.
- Second Vice President, Bryan Chester, *Columbia Missourian*.
- Secretary, Ron Schott, *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove.
- Treasurer, Kenneth L. Garner, Garner Media Holdings, Maryville.
- Director for a two-year term: Mike



Amos Bridges

Scott, NEMOnews Media, Kahoka.

Director for three-year terms: Sandy Nelson, *Courier Tribune*, Liberty; and Kimberly Combs, *Wayne County Journal Banner*, Piedmont.

Hannah Spaar, *The Odessan*, Odessa, is being nominated as the National Newspaper Association state chair.

Continuing on the MPA Board in 2024 will be directors: Gary Castor, *Jefferson City News Tribune*; Bryan Jones, *Morgan County Statesman*, Versailles; Kevin Jones, *St. Louis American*; Tim Schmidt, *Montgomery Standard*, Montgomery City; and Lucas Presson, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau.

Roger Dillon, *Shannon County Current Wave*, Eminence; will serve as immediate past president in 2024.

Dillon chaired this year's nominating committee. The committee members thank everyone who submitted nominations.

Better Newspaper Contest results are out

Congratulations to this year's BNC award winners. Refrain from publicizing results until after the Awards Luncheon at the 157th Annual Convention in St. Louis.



CALENDAR

September

- 21** — Missouri Press Foundation Thursday Night Social and Dessert Auction, Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel, St. Louis
- 22** — MPA's 157th Annual Convention and Trade Show, Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel, St. Louis
- 23** — Missouri Press Better Newspaper Contest Awards Luncheon, Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel, St. Louis

24-30 — Missouri Photo Workshop, Sedalia

October

- 19** — Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Columbia
- 19** — Ozark Press Association Annual Meeting, Mountain Grove

November

- 2** — MPA Past President's Dinner, Baxter's Lakeside Grille, Lake Ozark



ACTING PRESIDENT: 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*

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157th Annual Missouri Press Convention & Tradeshow

Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel • St. Louis

September 21-23, 2023



Online Registration Form: <https://tinyurl.com/3fmcyey>

Sleeping Room Reservations \$129, Reservation Deadline Aug. 21: <https://tinyurl.com/y46jd2wa>

Hotel Phone Number: 314-878-1500 | Hotel Address: 191 Westport Plaza St Louis, Missouri 63146

-Tentative Schedule –

Thursday, September 21

11AM | Registration Open

Noon | MPF Board Meeting

2PM | MPA/MPS Board Meeting

6:30-9PM | Foundation Fundraiser | So You Want to Be a Rockstar!? Dress Up in Your Favorite Rock Decade or Rockstar Attire | LIVE MUSIC from the Lost Dog Band | Dessert Auction featuring Desserts from MPA/ MPS Board Members!

Friday, September 22

7:30AM-6:30PM | Registration and BNC Photo Displays

8AM-4PM | Trade Show Open

8:30AM | Breakfast Program and Welcome
Former Anheuser-Busch Marketing Legend Robert Lachky

9:30AM | Business Meeting

9:45 | Break

10AM | General Session | Jon K. Rust
Philanthropy Funding for Journalism

11AM | General Session | Leonard Woolsey
Successful Leading Through Difficult Times

Noon | Lunch Program | Former U.S. Senator Roy Blunt

1:45PM | General Session | A Discussion: Things We've Learned About Diversity in Local Journalism | Moderator Mara' Rose Williams, Kansas City Star Assistant Managing Editor for Race & Equality | Panelists to be announced

2:45PM | Break

3PM | General Session | Robert Williams | NNA director of Creative Resources | The Great Idea Exchange: Nothing Happens Until Somebody Sells Something!

6PM | Hall of Fame Reception

6:20PM | Silent Auction Ends, Last Call for Bids!

6:30PM | Hall of Fame Dinner

Est. 8:30 PM | Hospitality Room Open

Saturday, September 23

7:30AM-Noon | Registration and BNC Photo Displays

8:30AM | Breakfast Program | Desiree Reed- Francois
University of Missouri Athletic Director

9:15AM | Round Table Discussions
Topics To Be Announced

10:15AM | Break

10:30AM | General Session |
50th Anniversary of Sunshine Law | Panel Discussion |
Panelists to be Announced

11:30AM | Better Newspaper Contest Lunch

**Save \$20-\$50 on your base registration fee
if you register by August 21!**

Five inductees will join Newspaper Hall of Fame

Missouri Press Association will recognize each at the 157th Annual Convention in St. Louis.

From Missouri Press Staff

Five new inductees are set to join the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame on Sept. 22, during the Missouri Press Association's 157th Annual Convention and Trade Show in St. Louis. Established by MPA in 1991, the 2023 Hall of Fame class will be the 33rd group to be inducted.

This year's inductees are the late Terez Paylor, a prolific sports reporter for *The Kansas City Star* and other outlets; the late Eugene Webster Sharp, a legendary journalism educator at the Missouri School of Journalism; the late Jane See White, a renowned writer, editor and journalism professor; Dr. Donald M. Suggs, longtime owner and publisher of the *St. Louis American*; and Dan Wehmer, publisher and owner of the *Webster County Citizen, Seymour*.

Hall of Fame inductees or their families receive Pinnacle Awards in honor of the inductees' service to the Missouri newspaper industry and their communities. Inductees'

plaques will join the permanent display of inductees in the MPA office in Columbia and in the student lounge in Lee Hills Hall at the Missouri School of Journalism.

— Terez Paylor —

From his work at *The Kansas City Star* to Yahoo! Sports, the late Terez Paylor had a lasting effect on Missouri sports reporting. Lauded by his colleagues for his passion, knowledge and desire to help others, Paylor was seen as an industry-wide force for the promotion of other Black journalists.

Growing up in Detroit, Mich., Paylor graduated with honors from Howard University and moved to Missouri in 2006 to work for *The Kansas City Star*. He covered all levels of sports, including eventually being assigned the University of Missouri sports beat and then the Kansas City Chiefs beat for the newspaper.

At the *Star* he became a recognized authority for Chiefs coverage, and in 2018, he joined Yahoo! Sports to cover the National Football League. He developed and hosted a radio show on 610 Sports in Kansas City and made regular appearances on Spectrum Sports and KSHB 41.

During his career, Paylor became a selector for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Selection Committee, a prestigious honor for journalists covering the NFL. He also regularly attended the Urban Student Journalism Academy in Kansas City and was known for spending hours talking with other young sportswriters on the phone or in conversation at events like the NFL Scouting Combine.

Since his death in 2021 at the age of 37, Paylor's fiancé at the time, Ebony Reed has worked tirelessly to raise more than \$200,000 for two scholarships named in his honor, the Terez A. Paylor Scholarship for Howard University and the PowerMizzou Journalism Alumni Scholarship in memory of Terez Paylor.

— Eugene Webster Sharp —

With 45 years of teaching at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, Eugene Webster Sharp helped to shape the educations of thousands of journalism students, starting with his hiring in 1924 and continuing until retirement in 1969.

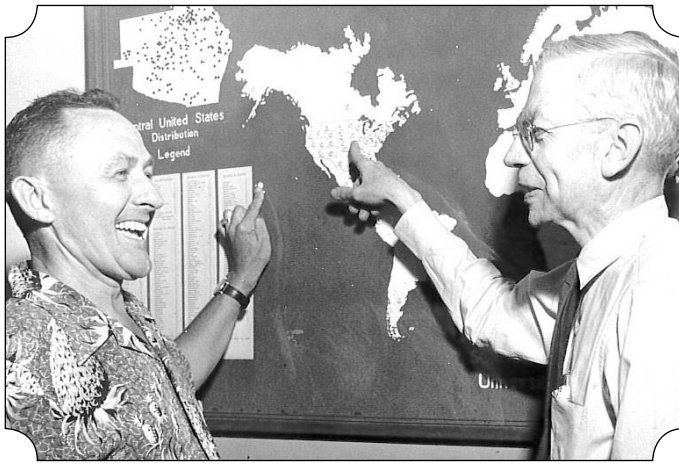
Sharp earned his bachelor's degree from Princeton University in 1921, and his journalism degree the next year from MU. From 1922 to 1924, he was a reporter and editor for the *Oklahoma City Times* and *McAlester News Capital*.

Continued on Page 5



A year before his February 2021 death at age 37, Terez Paylor jokes around with Vahe Gregorian, Sam Mellinger and other members of *The Kansas City Star* reporting staff covering the Chiefs' Super Bowl LIV victory over the San Francisco 49ers. Paylor was formerly with *The Star* but joined Yahoo! Sports in 2018 to cover the NFL. (Submitted photos)





Eugene Webster Sharp, right, chats with famed Hawaiian photographer Scotty Guletz during a 1955 visit by the latter to the Missouri School of Journalism. Sharp was a journalism professor at the University of Missouri from 1942 to 1969, most of which time he also served as city editor for the Columbia Missourian. Sharp died in 1982. (Submitted photos)



Continued from Page 4

Dean Walter Williams hired Sharp in 1924 to teach reporting, advanced reporting and foreign correspondent courses, of which the latter was the first such course taught in the United States. He also served as city editor for the *Columbia Missourian* for much of his tenure.

Throughout a career that included teaching at least 10 individual Pulitzer Prize winners, Sharp was recognized for the patience, kindness and personal interest he showed his students. For many years, he served as MU's advisor for the student chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, now the Society of Professional Journalists.

Following Sharp's retirement, an endowed scholarship was created in his name, with the funding coming almost entirely from former students. He died in 1982, having made an indelible mark on MU and generations of journalists who walked its halls.

— Jane See White —

Journalism was in Jane See White's blood from the time of her birth as the daughter of Robert Mitchell White II, editor and publisher of *The Mexico Ledger*. Her first taste of journalism came at the age of nine when she was the founding editor and publisher of *The Mexico Junior Ledger*, a summer weekly covering neighborhood news.

White was a 1972 graduate of Hollins College with honors and after graduating worked at the *Roanoke (Virginia) Times* for two years. She returned to Missouri to become a feature writer for *The Kansas City Star*, where she earned awards for investigative series on state-run schools for the mentally disabled and state psychiatric hospitals.

Her stories were known by those in Jefferson City as having the kind of response that forced action from

policymakers. At the same time, she was seen as a cohesive force for the newsroom, always pushing toward greatness.

She joined The Associated Press in 1976 as an editor on the World Desk in the New York City headquarters, and her time there included work as a member of a six-person team writing national feature stories. In 1991, White moved to Arizona and held various roles with the *Phoenix Gazette* and *The Arizona Republic*. From 2006 until her retirement, she was an editor and editorial writer for the *Arizona Daily Star*.

White spent more than 16 years sharing her expertise and passion as an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona School of Journalism. She died in January 2023, and her inclusion in the Hall of Fame marks the fourth of her family, including her father, her grandfather, L.M. White, and great-grandfather, Col. Robert M. White, to be inducted.

— Dr. Donald Suggs —

For nearly 40 years, as publisher and executive editor, Dr. Donald M. Suggs has helped lead and grow the *St. Louis American*, Missouri's largest weekly newspaper. He has increased access for readers and advertisers, while at the same time serving as a dedicated, energetic and enthusiastic champion of community newspapers and the Black Press.

Among his first moves as publisher of the *American*, Dr. Suggs made the newspaper free of charge to reach as many readers as possible. By reaching more readers, the newspaper was more valuable to advertisers, allowing circulation to grow and reach even more households with distribution in area grocery stores and major workplaces across St. Louis and Illinois' Metro East.

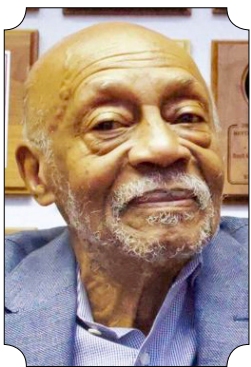
Concluded on Page 6



Mexico, Mo. native Jane See White was a feature writer for The Kansas City Star before joining The Associated Press' World Headquarters in New York City. During her time at The Star, her work was recognized by policymakers in Jefferson City for prompting statewide changes. White died in January 2023. (Submitted photos)



Continued from Page 5: Inductees also include Suggs, Wehmer.



Dr. Donald Suggs has been publisher and executive editor of The St. Louis American since 1984. He first earned his D.D.S. from Indiana University but has since received honorary degrees from several institutions of higher education, including Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Missouri — St. Louis and Harris-Stowe State University. (Submitted photos/St. Louis American)

In 1988, Dr. Suggs started the American's Salute to Excellence Community Awards, honoring outstanding individual citizens. With the formation of the non-profit St. Louis American Foundation, the newspaper expanded to highlight deserving individual educators, businesses and workers in business, healthcare and young leaders.

Thanks to the work of the newspaper's leadership and staff, the *American* has been named the top Black newspaper in the country 14 times since 1995, as well as earning more than 1,000 industry awards for excellence in journalism, advertising and community service. The newspaper has also received Missouri Press Association's Gold Cup Award six times in the Better Newspaper Contest.

Dr. Suggs' record of accomplishments, awards and accolades is lengthy, including being named the National Newspaper Publishers' Association Publisher of the Year in 2016, and the list of a dozen institutions of higher learning that offer scholarships in his name serves as a significant reminder of his ongoing commitment to making a better Missouri.

— Dan Wehmer —

As a boy in Willow Springs, Dan Wehmer remembers his fondness for newspapers stems from walking through the offices of the *West Plains Daily Quill* with his older sister, a reporter there at the time, smelling the newsprint and ink. Now some 40 years later, he owns the *Webster County Citizen* in nearby Seymour, operating it longer than anyone else in the newspaper's 116-year history.

Wehmer came to Seymour in August 1996 as a part-time special assignment writer and less than six months later was promoted to full-time associate editor, thanks to then-owners Gary and Helen Sosniecki, who saw potential in him and nurtured it. He took over managing the newspaper when it was sold in 1999 and was able to purchase it to become owner, publisher and editor in March 2017.

Today, Wehmer is known by many as "Mr. Seymour" for his dedication to the community, including volunteering annually for the Seymour Apple Festival (one of his first assignments to cover), and serving as an alderman since 2017. He is even the public address announcer during Seymour's home basketball games and was made an honorary alumnus of the school.

Keeping his finger on the pulse of the community and never saying "no" to helping however he can, Wehmer has repeatedly shown the power a newspaper can have to improve its community. He has headed efforts to raise more than \$350,000 to restore a landmark theater in Seymour's downtown and led advocacy for a 75-cent tax levy that passed by a 2-to-1 margin (and had failed twice previously) to increase teacher salaries, because he felt it was needed for Seymour's students.

The recipient of numerous industry awards, Wehmer has served as president of Ozark Press Association and board member for Missouri Press Association.

More information about the 2023 Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame inductees can be found on Missouri Press' website at www.mopress.com.



Dan Wehmer entertains then-3-year-old Baylor Keith, daughter of Whitney Keith, who almost 20 years ago worked as a summer intern for the Webster County Citizen in Seymour and still works occasionally as a "stringer" for the newspaper. Wehmer has been the longest operator of the Citizen in its 116-year history and became its owner in 2017. (Submitted photos)

157th Annual Missouri Press Convention & Tradeshow

Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel • St. Louis

September 21-23, 2023



Roy Blunt returns to MPA Convention as Friday lunch speaker

By Missouri Press Staff

Missouri Press News

For 50 years Roy Blunt has represented Missourians, beginning as a clerk in Greene County at the age of 23, all the way up to serving two terms as a U.S. Senator until January 2023. Members of Missouri Press Association will have a chance to hear the former senator talk about his career and the part newspapers played in it during the 157th Annual Convention in St. Louis.

Today Blunt represents Missourians in a different way as the president of the board of trustees for the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMo), an organization the press association started during the 1898 convention. In a way, SHSMo is also a return to roots as before being elected to statewide office in 1984, he was a history teacher in southwest Missouri.

A regular attendee of MPA's conventions in past years, 2023 marks Blunt's first appearance at the convention since not seeking re-election last year.

MPA Executive Director Mark Maassen says Blunt's attending the Convention is significant for many reasons, including that he is currently serving as president of SHSMo, and that he was an important ally for newspapers during his public service.

"We're very excited to have former Sen. Blunt join us this year. He has always been a good friend to Missouri newspapers," Maassen said. "For years he helped us champion free press and open government issues on Capitol Hill."

Blunt was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2010 and remained there until January 2023; he did not seek re-



Then U.S. Senator Roy Blunt answers questions during Missouri Press' 2019 Convention in Kansas City. Blunt is scheduled to speak at MPA's 157th Annual Convention, Sept. 21-23, in St. Louis. (Staff file photo)

election in 2022. Prior to that, he served seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

At the statewide level, Blunt was Missouri's secretary of state from 1984-1993. He also had a stint as president of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, his alma mater.

Missouri Press Association's 157th Annual Convention and Trade Show will be held Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 21-23, at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel in St. Louis. A tentative agenda for the event is available on Page 3 of this month's *Missouri Press News*.

You can register to attend this year's Convention here, <https://bit.ly/43vO9NZ>.

If you would like to participate in the Trade Show or be a sponsor, please contact Missouri Press Foundation Director Michael Harper at mharper@mopress.com.

SHSMo celebrates 125 years, and it all started with MPA

By Beth Pike,
State Historical Society
of Missouri

Special for Missouri Press News

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of the State Historical Society of Missouri by the Missouri Press Association. Its mission to preserve, collect, and share Missouri history dates to 1898 when MPA's membership voted to approve the creation of the State Historical Society at its May 26 meeting in Eureka Springs, Ark. Yes, it was newspaper folks enjoying the natural beauty in Razorbacks country that began this legacy!

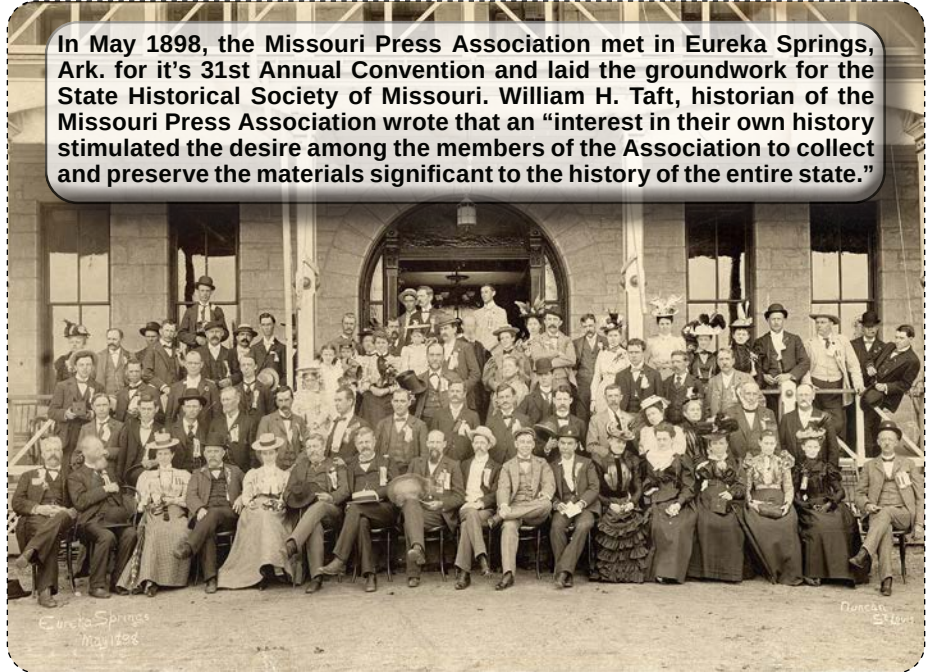
William H. Taft, historian of the Missouri Press Association wrote that an "interest in their own history stimulated the desire among the members of the Association to collect and preserve the materials significant to the history of the entire state."

A year before the Eureka Springs gathering, Edwin W. Stephens, publisher of the *Columbia Herald*, headed a committee to draft a constitution and bylaws for the State Historical Society.

Much of the enthusiasm came from editors who saw themselves as educators and wished to dampen the rancor that divided Missouri following the Civil War, according to Historian Alan R. Havig.

"Newspapers could set an example of calm and reasoned

In May 1898, the Missouri Press Association met in Eureka Springs, Ark. for it's 31st Annual Convention and laid the groundwork for the State Historical Society of Missouri. William H. Taft, historian of the Missouri Press Association wrote that an "interest in their own history stimulated the desire among the members of the Association to collect and preserve the materials significant to the history of the entire state."



discussion for citizens," wrote Havig in a book commemorating the Society's centennial. In addition, Missouri newspapers had their own history to preserve. *Missouri Gazette*, the first newspaper published in the Missouri Territory, began 90 years before, and many newspapers followed without a library to preserve the record of the day.

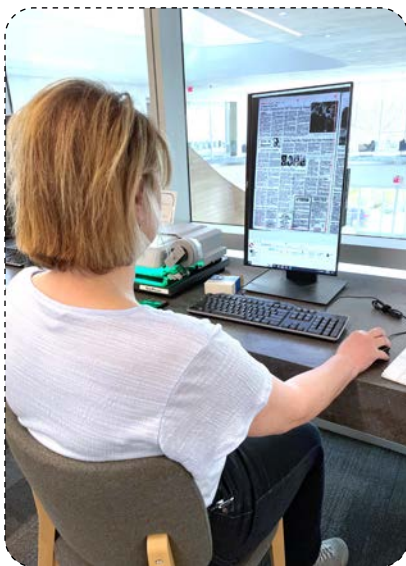
In addition to Stephens, who would serve as the Society's first president, several other prominent Columbians would play a key role in the press association's sponsorship of a state historical society. Walter Williams, editor of the *Columbia Herald*, and Isidor Loeb of the University of Missouri history and political science faculty, helped to establish a committee for the Society's founding and provided leadership in its early years. Other committee members included W.O. L. Jewett (*Shelbina Democrat*), A. A. Lesueur (*Lexington Intelligencer*), H. E. Robinson (*Maryville Republican*), and Perry S. Rader (*Brunswick Brunswicker*). The committee consulted with established state societies, including the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, which heavily influenced the model for Missouri.

With ambitious goals for the State Historical Society of Missouri, a major hurdle would be its funding. The committee realized that neither the state's newspapers nor the University of Missouri had adequate resources to sustain this new organization. A year later, the Society became a trustee of the State of Missouri in 1899, receiving its first state appropriation of \$4,500 two years later. The collections would be owned by the people of Missouri.

Continued on Page 9



This 1902 photo shows Minnie Organ, librarian for the State Historical Society of Missouri, standing in the newspaper library inside the University of Missouri's Academic Hall, now Jesse Hall, on the Columbia campus. SHSMo would later move to Ellis Library when it opened in 1915. (Submitted photos)



Above, researchers in the early 1970s use the newspaper library at the State Historical Society of Missouri. At left, while bound copies of newspapers were used for much of the historical society's history, today newspapers are digitized and stored on microfilm for review. Inset, racks of bound copies were stored in the Ellis Library basement prior to SHSMo's move to a new facility in 2019. (Submitted photos)

Continued from Page 12

In addition to its collection and preservation efforts, the Society began a scholarly publication in 1906, the *Missouri Historical Review*, which is still published by the Society on a quarterly basis each year.

The State Historical Society initially operated inside a small room in Academic (now Jesse) Hall on the MU campus. A need for a larger space happened after the Missouri State Capitol caught fire from a lightning strike in 1911. Within hours, the Capitol burned to the ground. Brave Missourians, including convicts from the Missouri State Penitentiary, rushed in to save documents and many state records were transferred to the organization's headquarters in Columbia. As a result, the Missouri legislature approved funding for a

new university library that could also be used by SHSMO. This library, later named for MU president Elmer Ellis, opened in 1915 and became a new home for the Society.

It's no surprise that its earliest collection would be newspapers. Thousands of publishers and editors in Missouri have helped to support the nation's most comprehensive collection of one state's dailies and weeklies. The newspaper collection, with titles ranging from rural publications to large metropolitan dailies, now includes more than 72 million pages preserved on microfilm. Around 200 newspapers from every Missouri county are collected each week adding to this dynamic collection.

Microfilm continues to be the preferred archival format for newspaper preservation. Three

copies of every reel are made with the master copy stored off-site, the second negative copy is stored on-site in a cold storage room, and the access copy is circulated to researchers at the State Historical Society's six research centers at locations in Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis, Cape Girardeau, Rolla, and Springfield.

Long-term preservation of newspapers is undertaken by the State Historical Society at no cost to the publisher. Many Missouri newspapers provide SHSMO with e-editions to create preservation microfilm.

Missouri was one of the first states to begin digitizing historic newspapers through *Chronicling America*, a joint project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. Since 2008, SHSMO has digitized newspapers from every Missouri county and continues to make millions of pages of Missouri newspapers available online.

Ongoing contributions

The newspaper collection is not the only contribution made by the Missouri Press Association to the State Historical Society. Almost a century after its founding, Avis Tucker, publisher of the *Daily Star Journal* in Warrensburg became the first female president of the Board of Trustees in 1992.

Many newspaper editors and publishers have helped to guide the Society well into the 21st century. MPA past president Vicki Russell and former executive director Doug Crews are among the current SHSMO trustees.

Today, students across the state compete for the Missouri Press Association Prize Award as part of the National History Day in Missouri contest held each spring. A \$200 award is given for the best entry that features the history of journalism, newspapers, or a journalist. This year's prize was awarded to Lydia Christian of Blair Oaks Middle School in Jefferson City. Christian wrote a paper on Betty Weldon, publisher of multiple newspapers in mid-Missouri, including the *Jefferson City News Tribune*.

Concluded on Page 10

Continued from Page 9: MPA members welcomed and encouraged to stop by Center for Missouri Studies.

"The MPA Prize encourages students to analyze primary sources, such as newspaper articles, and to highlight the work of journalists in their projects," said Danielle Griego, coordinator of Missouri's National History Day program. "We are grateful for the support of the Missouri Press Association each year."

In 2019, the State Historical Society of Missouri began a new era in its history with its own 76,000 square-foot building located a block away from MPA headquarters on the MU campus. Today, the public can browse through newspaper microfilm and read almost 5,000 newspaper titles, access 45,000 cubic feet of manuscript collections, as well as books, maps, photographs, sheet music, oral histories, and other material related to Missouri history. Visitors can

understand the region through artworks by master artists George Caleb Bingham and

Thomas Hart Benton, and study the 17,000-plus collection of editorial cartoons, displayed on a rotation basis inside the SHSMO Art Gallery.

Gary Kremer, SHSMO executive director of the State Historical Society and Missouri historian and journalist Bob Priddy summed up this longstanding relationship during a program commemorating the 125th anniversary, saying "We wouldn't be here today without the good newspaper folks who championed our purpose and continue to be among our greatest supporters."

Members of MPA are always welcome to stop by the SHSMO headquarters for a visit. We're at 605 Elm St., Columbia. You're also invited to visit any of our research centers across the state. I'm happy to give you a tour and answer questions. Contact me at Pikebe@shsmo.org or 573-884-7904.

Beth Pike is communications director of the State Historical Society of Missouri and a board member of the Missouri Press Foundation. Pike is also editor of Missouri Times, published by SHSMO and past issues of which can be found online at <https://shsmo.org/publications/missouri-times>.



The current home of the State Historical Society of Missouri is the Center for Missouri Studies, located in downtown Columbia near the Missouri Press Association offices and across the street from the Missouri School of Journalism's Lee Hills Hall. (Submitted photos)



Students retell the story of the newsboys' strike of 1899 to compete in the performance category for National History Day in Missouri. A special prize sponsored by Missouri Press Association is awarded to the student or team that best utilizes primary sources, such as newspaper articles, and/or highlight the work of journalists in their projects.

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 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 or kfortier@mopress.com.

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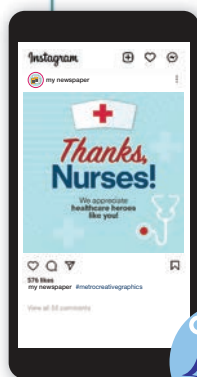
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Hybrid Theory: *Cross-training staff makes for a stronger newspaper*

By Matthew Barba
Missouri Press News

Hybridization is becoming increasingly common as the imaginary wall between newspapers' editorial and advertising departments gets smaller. Today, every staff member is critical to collaborative efforts that keep the doors open.

But someone selling ads isn't necessarily a writer, and someone who writes may not know how to convince advertisers to buy space. *Missouri Press News* wants to know about staff at newspapers who take on multiple roles in order to share their stories in upcoming editions of the magazine.

Finding balance for staff who fulfill multiple roles can be tricky. Sometimes they just click in their various jobs, like *The Excelsior Springs Standard's* Miranda Jamison, who writes court news, sells advertising and even combines both for a recently launched podcast she hosts.

Jamison started working with the *Standard* and its sister publication, the *Richmond News*, about a year-and-a-half ago as a freelance writer. She moved to sales towards the end of last year and because the *Standard* didn't have a full-time reporter, she continued writing while also selling advertising.

"When I was offered the sales position, I thought I would be a good fit because of my previous customer service experience and because of the love I have for my community. Being able to support our small businesses is important to me and sales allows me to do that," Jamison said.

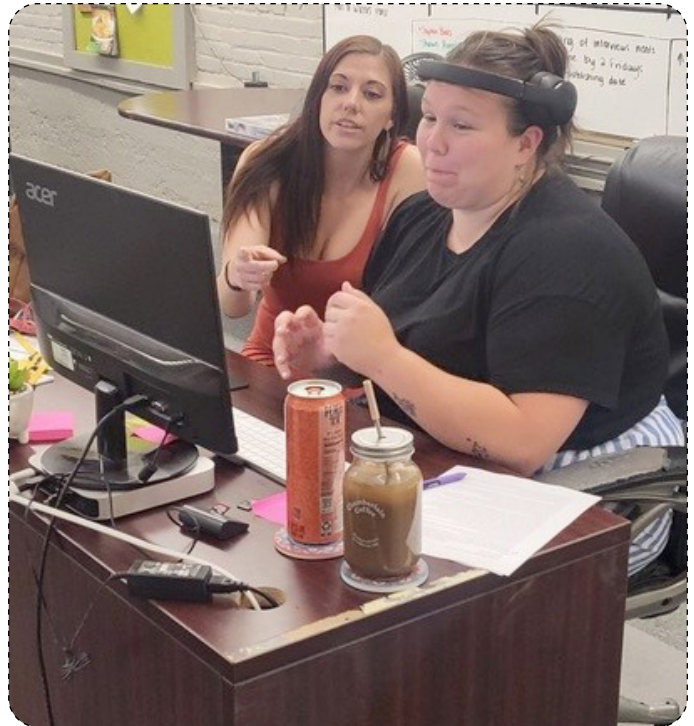
She added, "I personally prefer editorial, and I believe I do because I now get to specialize in crime and court writing."

When the *Standard* hired a full-time reporter, Jamison picked up the crime beat for the newspaper, whose community straddles the Ray and Clay counties line.

"Ever since I was little, I always wanted to be involved in the law in some way when I grew up," Jamison said. "I was blessed to be able to be a 911 dispatcher for six years and unfortunately had to leave that position. Now I respond to scenes of crimes and then get to follow those incidents through the court system, writing about what happens at each court date."

She recalls one story the newspaper ran that included a probable cause statement regarding weapons and assault charges.

"A few days after it was published the person that was charged with these crimes came to our office to confront



The Excelsior Springs Standard's Miranda Jamison, left, researches a story with Sophia Bales, staff writer for the Standard's sister publication, the Richmond News. Jamison writes crime and court news part-time, is a sales representative and hosts a podcast to talk about the area's court news. Bales is one of Missouri Press Association's Outstanding Young Journalists of 2023. (Submitted photo)

me about the article," Jamison said. "Once he realized that I reported on the public information I was given, he calmed down. It made me realize that people do really read my articles and to be prepared that not everyone will like what is written."

Reaching a new audience

To supplement her courts coverage, Jamison recently started a podcast, called "In the Courtroom with Miranda Jamison."

"This has been great for both of my jobs. It has become an add-on with sales since we do a podcast sponsorship with advertisers," Jamison said. "In my articles there is no place for any opinion, it's all about the facts and only the facts. In my podcast, my opinion in no way reflects the newspaper, but I do get to voice it.

"Also, it reaches an audience that the newspaper doesn't. I like that my articles and the work I've done is recognized on a different platform," she said.

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Miranda Jamison hosts a crime podcast for The Excelsior Springs Standard, expanding on the crime and court coverage she writes part-time about. Also a part-time sales rep for the newspaper, Jamison sells podcast sponsorships to support it. (Submitted photo)

Jamison's podcast can be found on a variety of platforms, including Spotify, Apple Podcasts and IHeartRadio. She uses Buzzsprout to manage "In the Courtroom ..." and track stats for each episode, and the service offers a free tier if other newspapers are interested in dipping a toe into podcasting.

Looking back over the last 18 months, Jamison wishes she could tell herself starting out to "just relax."

"With the social media movement where it is, it can be hard to get across the importance of a newspaper and how it can benefit a business," she said. "It is easier to get across the information you want to share with a customer if you are comfortable and confident when you are having a conversation."

The Standard's advertisers, for the most part, haven't taken issue with Jamison's work on the newspaper's editorial side. "In fact, most of my regular customers make a point to tell me they've enjoyed something I've written," Jamison said.

But covering crime in the community sometimes means future conversations might be less than pleasant.

"I did have an advertiser who was arrested on a child abuse felony charge," she said. "I knew there would be pushback from some of the community as this person was a known business owner. The way I looked at it, it would not be right for me to withhold information to the public just because they were an advertiser."

Jamison said she sees potential in hybridized roles to make a stronger newspaper. "When you have the opportunity to do both jobs, you get an understanding of what everyone does in their roles. It makes you more compassionate, and if more places had hybrid roles, you would have more people to lean on when you need help."

For anyone finding themselves in a similar situation of balancing more than one role at the newspaper, Jamison recommends figuring out a time management system that works for you and stick to your schedule for completing projects.

"Separate the two jobs to the best of your ability. I have set days that I go see certain customers and I have set times that are for writing only," she said.

Also don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it, she said. "I am beyond blessed with the bosses and coworkers I have. It is everything to me knowing I can lean on them when I need it."

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The 2023 legislative session may be over but 2024's will start before you know. Take time now and in the coming months to remind readers and elected officials how important it is public notices be printed in newspapers like yours.

The above graphic and others like it were created in partnership between Missouri Press Association and the Public Notice Resource Center for newspapers to use at no cost.

Your newspaper can use graphics like the one above to ensure readers understand why public notices need to be in printed, third-party publications.

For more information, contact Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com.

ON THE MOVE



Joplin — Robin Phelan has been named publisher of *The Joplin Globe*, adding the newspaper to his already existing duties as publisher of *Farm Talk*, a weekly newspaper focusing on agriculture based in Parsons, Kan. Both the *Globe* and *Farm Talk* are owned by CNHI, which is based in Alabama and operates in 22 states.



Before joining *Farm Talk* in 2020, Phelan was regional advertising director for Seaton Publishing in Kansas. He also has experience as advertising and web director at another Kansas newspaper and as ad director for a newspaper group in North Carolina.

“It is a real honor to be named publisher of *The Joplin Globe*,” Phelan said in announcing his new role. “*The Globe* has been recording and documenting history and helping businesses in and around the Joplin community for over 120 years. As the *Globe*’s vast reach online and print products grow, we will continue to record and document history and to help businesses grow.”

Kansas City — Andale Gross has been named *The Star*’s new managing editor, replacing Greg Farmer, who became executive editor earlier this year. Gross previously worked as the Associated Press’ race and ethnicity news editor for four years.



A native of Moberly, Gross earned his degree from the Missouri School of Journalism and started with *The Star* in 1994 covering Kansas schools. Following work at newspapers in Iowa and Ohio, he joined the AP as a reporter in Kansas City and then spent a decade as a regional editor in Chicago.

At *The Star*, Gross told readers he

hopes to help produce journalism that resonates across the many “Kansas Cities in Kansas City,” such as in the LGBTQ+ community and immigrant community. “So that when people look at *The Star*, they see themselves in it.”

Park Hills — Kevin R. Jenkins, longtime *Daily Journal* writer and *Farmington Press* editor has been named editor of the *Daily Journal*. The newspaper was recently purchased by Illinois-based Better Newspapers Inc. Jenkins has worked in the newspaper business for 27 years, serving as a reporter at Park Hills for seven and a half years and editor of the *Farmington* newspaper for more than four years before that.



Jenkins also previously worked at *The Mountain Echo* in Ironton and the *St. Clair Missourian*. His experience includes reporting for the *Daily American Republic* in Poplar Bluff and for the *Centralia Fireside Guard*.

Earning his master’s in religious education, Jenkins worked 20 years in churches before moving to Missouri to join the Missouri Southern Baptist Convention in Jefferson City. With MSBC he traveled as part of a ministry to train pastors in Belarus and Russia.

Jenkins told readers, “One of my greatest joys is telling the stories of everyday people who have made a mark on their world. There are a lot of interesting people, as well as many unsung heroes, who I’ve had the pleasure of bringing to the attention of our readership through the years. I expect that to continue as I take on the responsibility of *Daily Journal* editor.”

Kansas City — David Hudnall, a narrative writer at *The Star*, known by readers for covering a variety of topics, was awarded first place for features beat writing in the Society for Features Journalism’s annual awards contest. More than 900 entries from daily newspapers and digital-only organizations were submitted.



Hudnall’s winning work included stories published in 2022 about the rise and fall of iconic Kansas City area fashion brand Baldwin Denim, the story of KC’s oldest bar, Kelly’s Westport Inn and how the town of Humboldt in southeastern Kansas became a top tourist destination. *The Star*’s entries were judged among newspapers with a circulation of more than 90,000 and less than 200,000.

He has been at *The Star* since 2021.

Missouri Press Association / Service / Foundation

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On KC's East Side, something rarely seen in modern times: A newspaper war

By David Hudnall

From *The Kansas City Star*

A stack of fresh newspapers under his arm, Eric Wesson hopped off the curb and bounded out into the intersection of 12th Street and Brooklyn Avenue. He approached the driver of a silver truck waiting on the northbound stoplight.

"How you doin'?" This is my new newspaper, *The Next Page KC*," Wesson said, passing the gentleman a free copy through the window. He pointed to a storefront across the street. "That's my office — you can find copies there." Then he pointed down the way toward the Family Mini Market. "Miss Toni sells them in her store also."

The light turned green, and Wesson wished the driver a good day. Then he shuffled over to a car idling in the eastbound lane and did it all over again.

Wesson's been hustling out on this East Side street corner every Friday morning for the last month, motivated by a business circumstance rarely seen in these modern times: a newspaper war.

Wesson is the former editor and publisher of *The Call*, the 103-year-old weekly newspaper covering Kansas City's Black community. After 21 years, he left in June and rented an office from which he has launched *The Next Page KC*, a broadsheet whose coverage bears more than a passing resemblance to his former publication. He brought along a few *Call* employees and advertisers as well.

His departure has disrupted operations at *The Call*, a cherished paper with a rich legacy of reporting on civil rights on the East Side. It has also raised questions about just how many local Black publications — there is also *The Globe*, which is distributed mostly in Black churches, and the new media upstart the *KC Defender* — the Kansas City market can support circa 2023.

"I wish them well," Wesson said last week of his former employer.

Wesson's version of the split is this: He is the only publisher in *The Call's* history who did not own the paper. After two decades of service, he made an offer to buy it and was told that the Joseph family, which owns *The Call*, was in the midst of an audit to see how much the paper was worth.

"And they said they may get back to me about it," Wesson said. "Something about that may kind of rubbed me the wrong way. I said, 'I can do this on my own, sink or swim.' My wife said, go start your own legacy. You got the contacts, you got the resources, you got the support from the community, you should be OK. So, that's what I'm doing here."

"Eric's offer just wasn't a very good offer," Jason Joseph, operations manager for *The Call*, told *The Star*. "That's why it wasn't accepted."

Joseph, 46, is the son of Gloria Joseph, who owns *The Call*. The paper was founded in 1919 by Chester Arthur Franklin to serve the city's Black population. The journalist and civil rights activist Lucile Bluford became editor when Franklin



Eric Wesson, publisher of the new weekly newspaper *The Next Page KC*, fist bumps a driver while handing out free copies of his paper at 12th Street and Brooklyn Avenue. (Submitted/Monty Davis, *The Kansas City Star*)

died in 1955. After Bluford's death, in 2003, longtime reporter and editor Donna Stewart became its owner. When Stewart died in 2020, she left *The Call* to her sister, Gloria Joseph, who currently lives in a retirement home.

The Josephs have been exploring a sale of the paper, Jason Joseph told *The Star*.

After Wesson announced he was leaving, the Josephs hired Tracy Allen, a reporter at *The Call* from 1998 to 2017, to serve as interim editor. Allen told *The Star* one of her primary goals is to update *The Call's* digital presence, something she said "should have been done well over a decade ago."

Wesson said he hopes to eventually get a website up and running, but his focus is the print product.

"There's a niche audience in the Black community that wants a hard-copy newspaper to read while eating breakfast or drinking coffee, and tapping into that niche audience will be our success," Wesson, who is 63, said. "A lot of people over here don't use the internet. But they are loyal readers that have disposable income and they still want news and information. And that's what we plan on getting them at *The Next Page*."

Wesson's first issue was strategically timed to hit the week before Juneteenth and Kansas City's municipal elections.

"It is true that we have the same target market as *The Call*," Wesson acknowledged. "The newspaper business is about relationships, especially in the Black community. You need that to get the public's trust and also to gather information. I'm in the community. I go to church in the community, my kids are active in the community."

"My mindset was, Mr. Franklin taught Mrs. Bluford, and Mrs. Bluford taught Donna, and Donna taught me," Wesson said. "I wanted to carry on that legacy at *The Call* and pass it on to the next generation. But now with me leaving, that legacy goes with me. It's here now."

This story was originally published July 11, 2023, on The Kansas City Star's website, www.kansascity.com. It has been edited for length. The original article can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3q3sChM>.

More On Advertising

Ted Lawrence,
Advertising Director
Missouri Press Service



How NOT To Respond To 'No'

According to Andrea Waltz, co-author of the book "Go For No", there are six common mistakes salespeople make when they hear "no" from a prospect. Let's look at them.

1. Arguing

The first big no-no is to argue. No one likes conflict, let alone with a salesperson when time and money are on the line. This type of pressure will never get you a long-term customer.

2. Pouting

The next big mistake is pouting. Pouting sounds like: "Wow, so much for my bonus this month. My boss isn't going to be happy about this, either." The salesperson wants pity. Maybe the customer might feel sorry for them and change their mind. Again, a short-term solution.

3. Begging

Begging sounds like: "Wait, are you sure? I was counting on this happening today." Begging is a little softer than arguing. It comes from a different place—a place of desperation and fear. But no one likes to buy from a desperate salesperson.

4. Bartering

This is NOT negotiating. There is always room to negotiate as long as there are concessions for each side to make so it's a win for all. Bartering is just a short-term solution to close the deal today. It sounds like: "Sign this deal today and on next month's invoice, I'll give you a better price."

5. Bridge-Burning

You can be angry, but avoid lashing out. Whatever you do, don't say: "Fine. I'll go to your biggest competitor and see what they think of this proposal. You'll wish you hadn't turned us down."

Handle the "No" well. Respect the decision rather than burning a bridge; you never know how that might turn into a "Yes" in the future.

6. Accepting A Bad Yes

The problem is that doing any of these things often winds up getting you a "bad yes." It's not what the customer really wanted to do and in the end, many bad "yeses" will haunt you later on. Bad "yeses" don't end up in referrals. They can end up being

canceled at the last minute. They don't usually garner 5-star reviews on social media.

As a professional salesperson, maintain your composure when you hear 'No'. Respond in a way that they don't expect—positive and upbeat. Make them comfortable.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

When hearing "no," salespeople should stay calm and composed, and seek to understand the prospect's concerns and needs.

Salespeople can also use the rejection to improve their approach if there is an opportunity to revisit that prospect in the future.

By persevering through rejection, salespeople can improve their skills, learn more about the prospect's needs and challenges, and ultimately achieve success in the long term.





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Use this ‘off-year’ to refamiliarize yourself with ethics of advertising

When the calendar turns to August, it’s always a reminder that political races are coming up. This year is an off-year for most of us in the state, but it seems like a good time to talk to your advertising staff about reminders related to running political ads, and other ad issues.

Only a few laws or rules impact newspapers directly in regard to publishing election ads, but these rules can create direct liability for the advertising staff. So, EVERY ad staff should have posted the rules from the Mo. Ethics Commission (at <https://tinyurl.com/432p8x5d>).

These rules are critical for your staff because the Ethics Commission complaints generate a fine that is imposed against your newspaper, as well as a fine against the candidate. It doesn’t matter if the ad came in that way and you simply republished what you were given. The fine is a minimum \$1,000.

Other than that concern, most political advertising is going to be acceptable, regardless of what is said about other candidates. The hotline is always available if you have questions, of course.

The other primary focus in advertising departments should be whether housing advertising, either for rental or sale of real estate, could be seen to be discriminatory. Unfortunately, there are not clearly-defined rules that make such ads easy

to spot. Often, the best suggestion is that the ad should be carefully limited in its language to describe the property, and not discuss what type of person is most-suited for the property or is desired by the landlord as a tenant.

Language describing the location of the property should be limited to address and cross-streets. Location in terms of nearby landmarks can be dangerous for the paper because those have been held to indicate a preference for someone of a certain faith or of someone without children. Such language is simply not necessary

and should be avoided, leaving it up to the reader to determine whether the property is suitable for their needs.

And legal notices create their own special challenges. Legal notices for foreclosures present a huge risk for newspapers. A lot of attorney work goes into the preparation for publication of a foreclosure notice and if a newspaper fails

to properly publish it for the dates it needs to run, all of that work goes down the drain. The process must be re-started and the cost to the advertiser in terms of attorneys fees explodes.

The simple solution for a newspaper is to have double-checks in place to ensure that failure to publish never happens. There just is no easy “make good” available. A lawyer who says you cannot just run it one extra week

for free is not being stubborn, the lawyer is doing what is required under state law.

Yes, it is the right thing to do to offer to pay the cost to re-do the legal work that precedes the running of the legal notice, if your failure to catch the error caused the re-do. That’s why this should just never happen.

At the same time, it’s good practice for a paper to decline to give legal advice to a lawyer who calls to ask how many times a notice should run. I have a perfect example that happened to me just this past month. I published a notice for a self-storage unit sale for a client. I researched it before placing the ad and believed it only needed to run one time. It ran and then in the period between publication and the sale, my client called with a question that caused me to hunt again for the statutes. In doing that, I first saw a statute that called for publication twice. I panicked and my first thought was that we would need to re-do the advertising step.

Fortunately, I kept reading and in due course determined that the statute I was reading applied to warehouse operators, while the self-storage statutes were different. Once was all that was required.

This business of “reading the statutes” is a difficult task. Don’t let an advertiser ask you to tell them how many times a notice should run. Don’t step in and attempt to give an advertiser legal advice.

Do what they tell you to do and make it clear that the advertiser is responsible for deciding when and how often the ad runs, not the paper.

Be safe, not sorry!

“It’s good practice for a paper to decline to give legal advice to a lawyer who calls to ask how many times a notice should run.”



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



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Sure, the content might be a lot more limited when you go to Digiversity.tv, but you're guaranteed to learn something.

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If you aren't already signed up, shoot an email to mbarba@mopress.com to get access.

So, what does access get you? Digiversity.tv focuses on the Adobe Creative Cloud suite of products, with Viers using videos that follow the same engaged, energetic teaching style MPA's members have seen from him firsthand for more than 25 years. He and other presenters also cover various topics in written articles and live webcasts.

The content guide, accessible at the top of the front page, give you access to everything you could hope to learn, including multiple series covering everything from art and advertising illustration to layout to image adjustment and most things in between.

Russell even offers a small section on “practical jokes,” although it might be more useful as a primer on what not to do with various Adobe programs.

Finally, we've told you before Russell will happily respond to questions about Adobe products, but you can also send him a message right from the website at digiversity.tv/checking-the-mail.

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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.

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 him directly at russell@digiversity.tv.

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