

MP

MISSOURI PRESS

NEWS



MPA's 157th Annual Convention in St. Louis is your gateway to learning and fellowship



Meet the four inductees set to join the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame | P6-8

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Membership applications for consideration

From Missouri Press Staff

The Missouri Press Association has received an Active Membership application for the *Carthage Chronicle*. It is published by Paul E. Donley and managed by Katrina Garber.

Address: *Carthage Chronicle*, 101 N. Sixth St., PO Box 400, Sarcxie, MO 64862. Email: fstop@centurytel.net. Telephone: (417) 548-3311. Fax: (417) 548-3312. It is a weekly publication with a circulation of 1,000.

Friend of application

The Missouri Press Association

has received a Friend of Missouri Press application for Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It is being represented by Karen Buschmann and Megan Davis.

Address: Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 428 E. Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101. Website: www.mochamber.com. Email: kbuschmann@mochamber.com. Telephone: (573) 634-3511. The Chamber's publication, *Missouri Business Magazine* is published twice a year, and membership with



MPA will be traded for the Association's membership with the Chamber.

Membership applications are considered by the MPA Board of Directors at its first meeting after this notice has been published in at least three issues of the MPA Bulletin, eBulletin or magazine. The next meeting of the MPA Board is scheduled for Sept. 21, 2023, in St. Louis.

Comments about applications can be sent to MPA Executive Director Mark Maassen at mmaassen@mopress.com.

Are you receiving Missouri Press' emails?

To get yourself or another member of your staff on our email list, or for more information, please contact mbarba@mopress.com.



Missouri Press
Foundation

MISSOURI PHOTOJOURNALISM
2023 HALL OF FAME CEREMONY

SAVE THE DATE

Columbia, Missouri 10/19/23 4 p.m.

State Historical Society of Missouri

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Central Bank
of Boone County

Missourian
media group

Vote on MPA's 2024 officers, directors at the Convention

From Missouri Press Staff

A slate of Missouri Press Association officers and directors for 2024 has been proposed to be voted on during the MPA business meeting Friday, Sept. 22, during the 157th Annual Convention at the Westport Sheraton Chalet Hotel in St. Louis.

Proposed candidates 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 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: 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.

Bylaw changes

Two amendments to the MPA Articles of Agreement, or bylaws, are proposed regarding the terms to serve as an officer or director of the Association.

It is proposed to amend Article VI Section 1., which specifies officers for the Association, to include: "To be an officer of the Missouri Press Association Board, the individual must be employed and actively working for a member organization."

It is also proposed that Article VI Section 6., which defines directors of the Association, be amended to include: "To be a director of the Missouri Press Association Board, the individual must be employed and actively working for a member organization."

Current language for the existing Articles of Agreement can be found online at mopress.com/mpa-constitution-bylaws/.

Contact MPA Executive Director Mark Maassen at (573) 449-4167, ext. 308 or mmaassen@mopress.com with questions about the MPA business meeting.



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, Old Kinderhook, Camdenton



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>

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/MPF 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: Rebecca Rivas of the Missouri Independent, Taylor Freeman of KOMU Channel 8, Columbia and Echo Menges of The Edina Sentinel/ NEMOnews Media

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 | Break

9:30AM | Round Table Discussions
Topics To Be Announced

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

11:30AM | Better Newspaper Contest Lunch

157th Annual Missouri Press Convention & Tradeshow

Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel • St. Louis

September 21-23, 2023



This year's Convention in St. Louis is going to be sweet

By Missouri Press Staff

Missouri Press News

By now you've received your Better Newspaper Contest results and you've learned about the deserving inductees who will join the Newspaper Hall of Fame. You even know we're going to have a rocking good time thanks to the Lost Dog Band during the Thursday night fundraiser for the Missouri Press Foundation.

Well, good news, everyone, there is another wonderful reason why you should attend the 157th Annual Convention, Sept. 21-23, at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel in St. Louis.

What is it you ask? A dessert auction featuring some of the finest sweets from around the state and supplied by members of the boards of directors for Missouri Press Association, Service and Foundation.

Kristie Fortier, Missouri Press' meeting planner, has been working with the various directors to ensure there will be plenty of options and something enticing to almost every palate.

"The dessert auction has been part of planning this year's Convention from the earliest days," Fortier said. "It's not something we've done before but being able to have people from all across the state bring their favorite local treats and desserts is very exciting."

"That we'll be benefiting the Missouri Press Foundation with this dessert auction is just icing on the cake," she added.

Proceeds from the auction will go to support the Foundation's mission of honoring newspapers' past, protecting the present and building the future of journalism in Missouri and beyond.



Twix Cookies from Bark and Sugar Bakery in Hillsboro.
(Submitted photo/barkandsugarbakery.com)

So far some of the treats that have been confirmed include Twix cookies from Bark and Sugar Bakery in Hillsboro, a sampling of Italian desserts from St. Louis' famed Italian neighborhood, The Hill, and a pie from Columbia's own Peggy Jean's Pies.

"Our Thursday night social is always a good time for everyone who attends," Fortier said. "But this year, with everyone competing for the different desserts, it's not going to be a night to miss."

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. An agenda for the event is available on Page 4 of this month's Missouri Press News.

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

In October, four will join Photojournalism Hall of Fame

*Induction ceremony is Oct. 19, at
State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia.*

From Missouri Press Staff

The Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame in Columbia will induct four award-winning photojournalists on Oct. 19, at the Center for Missouri Studies in downtown Columbia.

This will be the 19th group of inductees since the founding of the Hall of Fame in 2005. Inductees are the late Randy Cox; Dennis Crider of West Plains; Sally Stapleton of Columbia; and Jill Toyoshiba of Kansas City.

Photographs made by the inductees will be on display during the 4 p.m. ceremony and reception in the Sam B. Cook Hall at the Center for Missouri Studies, the State Historical Society of Missouri's location in downtown Columbia. Those photographs will join the Hall of Fame's collection of work by inductees.

The Photojournalism Hall of Fame was founded at the urging of Bill Miller Sr., publisher of the Washington Missourian newspaper, to recognize outstanding contributors to visual communication with ties to Missouri.

Information about the Photojournalism Hall of Fame and previous inductees can be seen at photojournalismhalloffame.org.

RSVP for the induction ceremony online at bit.ly/mophotoj or by email to mharper@mopress.com.

— Randy Cox —

Randy Cox was a talented news photographer, picture editor and designer. He also was a champion of documentary photojournalism and an inspirational teacher and mentor. Born in 1953, he grew up in Texas and Kansas but in 1973 enrolled in the Missouri School of Journalism to study photojournalism, graduating in 1975.

In his 38-year career, he worked as a photographer for the Jackson, Miss. *Clarion-Ledger* and a photo editor at *The Coffeyville, Kan. Journal*. He joined *The Morning Call* in Allentown, Pa. in the early 1980s as director of photography, then went to *The Hartford Courant*, where he served as assistant managing editor in charge of photos and graphics. He worked as a design consultant and member of the design team at *The Albuquerque Tribune*. In 1997, he joined *The Oregonian* in Portland, where he was senior editor for visuals, directing photography and visual presentation for about 16 years.

While his newspaper industry work and the work of his staffers won nearly every award in photography and design, his most profound contribution may have been as a



Randy Cox was photojournalist, teacher and mentor who spent nearly 40 years working at newspapers across the country. A graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism, he helped guide many of the program's graduates, even as he helped the staff at the newspapers where he worked win numerous industry accolades. (Submitted photos)

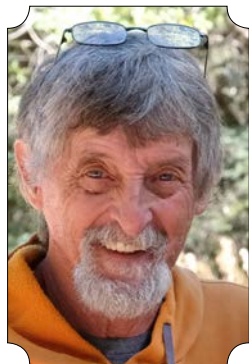
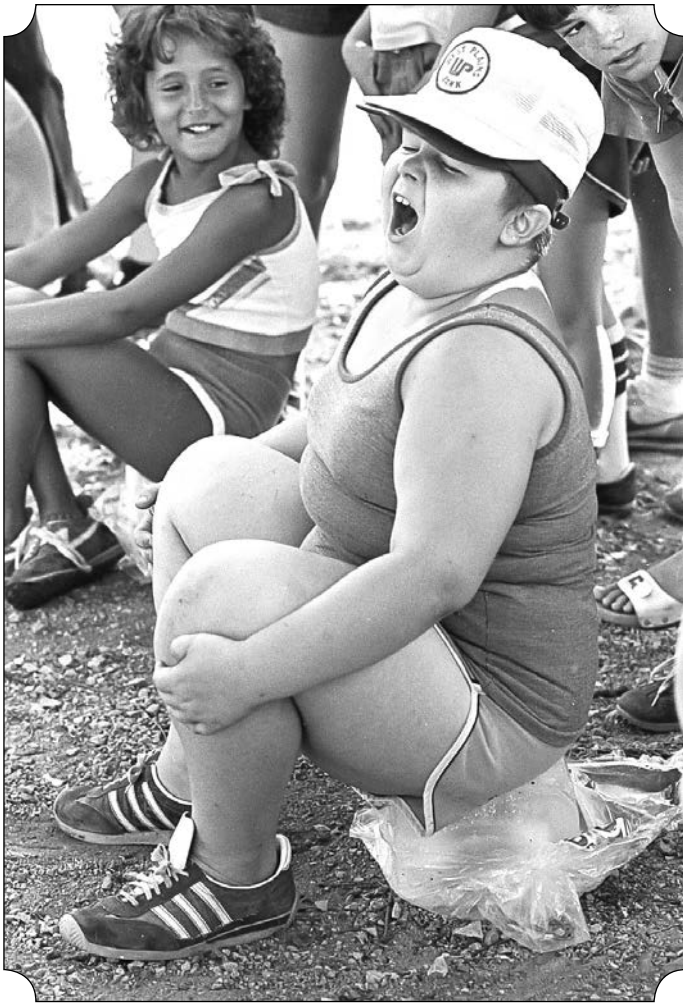


teacher, coach and mentor. Cox was recognized numerous times by the National Press Photographers Association for service to the profession and for educating and elevating young photographers and editors as they developed their careers.

Cox remained a staunch supporter of the Missouri School of Journalism and its photo program for his entire adult life. He stayed in close touch with Missouri photojournalism faculty throughout his career, mentoring many Mizzou students and alumni over the years. He was a member of the faculty of the Missouri Photojournalism Workshop for more than a dozen years.

He also helped found and served on the faculty of the Kalish Workshop for nearly 20 years and served on the faculty of the Electronic Photojournalism Workshop for nine years. He passed away in January of 2017 after a seven-year battle with kidney cancer.

Continued on Page 7



Dennis Crider is a lifelong photographer, starting by capturing magical childhood moments to spending 39 years at the West Plains Daily Quill. Since retiring as the Quill's head photographer and sports editor, he spends his time either traveling with his cameras to capture new memories or the photographs he's made to exhibit his collection at various regional events. (Submitted photos)

Continued from Page 6

— Dennis Crider —

Growing up in Wichita, Kan., Dennis Crider always had a camera in his hand. He took his first picture during a family vacation to Yellowstone National Park. The small black and white shot of Old Faithful blowing its top, "perfectly centered" according to his father, is stored in a journal his mother made of that vacation. The photo was taken at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 16, 1947 five days before Dennis' fourth birthday. Growing up, when neighborhood boys built a ramp and pushed their wooden homemade go-carts into the air, he just had to capture the moment.

Crider's interest led to further studies and employment at a photo processing facility in Wichita, as well as work as school photographer in high school and college. That

combination of schooling and training led to a job at the *West Plains Daily Quill* newspaper where he worked for 39 years before retiring in 2008. He started as a general assignment reporter/photographer, and he finished his career as head photographer and sports editor.

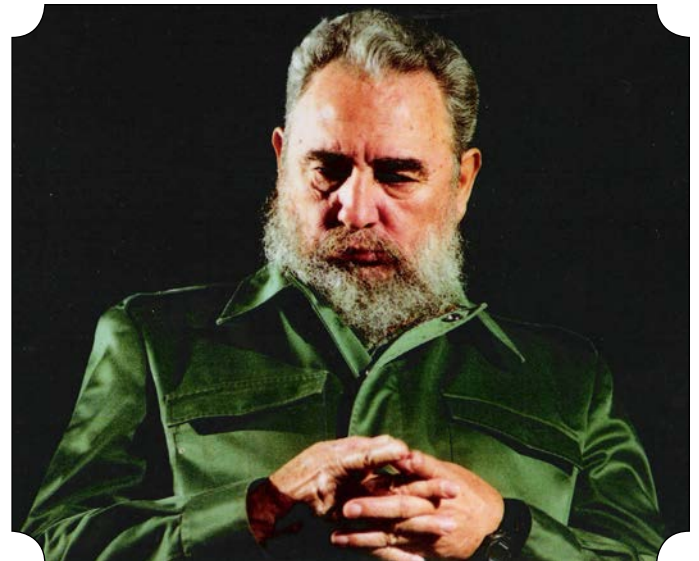
Since retiring, Dennis divides his time between traveling with his cameras to capture memories and traveling with his photographs to share his collections in various exhibits and festivals throughout Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma. He is a three-times finalist in the Best Nature Photography Show, an international competition hosted by the San Diego Natural History Museum. One of his photos was a finalist in *Cowboys and Indians* magazine's annual photography contest in 2011.

Some 300 of his photographs are featured in a book he co-authored with the owners of a 143-year-old stagecoach. "The Last Stage to Matador" tells the story of modern-day cowboys re-living the past by delivering pen-pal letters via a rugged, original stagecoach.

— Sally Stapleton —

Sally Stapleton is a third-generation visual journalist who spent her childhood in small-town newsrooms at opposite ends of the state. Before her teens, she learned to develop film in the darkroom of Kennett's *Daily Dunklin Democrat*, then run by her father, and she remembers watching her grandfather write stories on Linotype machines in the *Stanberry Headlight* and *Albany Ledger* newsrooms.

Concluded on Page 8



Sally Stapleton is a third-generation photojournalist whose Missouri roots extend all the way from the bootheel to the northeast corner of the state. Her expansive portfolio of award-winning work with The Associated Press has helped raise awareness for some of the biggest headlines of the last 30 years, including 9/11 and the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre. (Submitted photos)



Continued from Page 7: Inductees have spent lifetimes honing their craft behind the camera.



Jill Toyoshiba enjoyed taking pictures as a teen growing up in Hawaii, but her first round of schooling saw her pursue a microbiology degree. Later, she returned to school to pursue photojournalism, work that has taken her across the country and the world. Her efforts have been recognized throughout the industry and garnered numerous awards. (Submitted photos)

Between earning an undergraduate degree and returning to pursue her master's from the Missouri School of Journalism, Stapleton spent eight months working for her father in Kennett. In that time, she launched a weekend magazine and spent months photographing life in Hayti Heights, a tiny town that separated itself from a nearby community because its Black residents weren't being provided basic services.

She has held newsroom leadership roles covering the most far-reaching stories, including the ouster of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, funerals for international figures, the terror attacks of September 11, the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre and the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, which received the 1995 Feature Photography Pulitzer Prize for an Associated Press staff entry.

She was with AP Photos from 1990

until the end of 2003. In the 1990s, her role was senior photo editor for Latin America and Africa. In 1999, the AP won a second Africa-based Pulitzer Prize in Spot News Photography for coverage of the simultaneous al-Qaida bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Later, as deputy executive photo editor, she was responsible for all editorial aspects of U.S. and international photo operations, including more than 400 staff photographers and editors.

In 2016, Stapleton was named the Pollner Distinguished Professor at the University of Montana School of Journalism and taught multimedia storytelling. She was managing editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette from 2017 until April 2019. The Post-Gazette staff received the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Breaking News Reporting for coverage of the Tree of Life synagogue massacre.

— Jill Toyoshiba —

Jill Toyoshiba was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. As a teen, she enjoyed taking pictures, and that led her to enroll in the yearbook class. She first earned a microbiology degree at San Francisco State University, going to work as a technician in Bay Area research labs.

Switching gears again, Toyoshiba decided to pursue photojournalism at San Jose State University. In her early career, she interned at *The Pinnacle* in Hollister, California, and the *Chicago Tribune* before being hired at the *Herald News* in New Jersey.

Toyoshiba joined The Kansas City Star as a photojournalist in 2002 and during her 20 years there, she covered all manner of stories in Missouri and Kansas as the role expanded to videographer and drone pilot. She is thrilled to have covered two World Series and two Super Bowls. For a photo of Royals third baseman Mike Moustakas' effort catching a foul ball in a 2014 playoff game, she won multiple regional and national awards.

International experience has been important to Toyoshiba, having lived and worked in London and Bangkok and done as much overseas budget traveling as possible. Following the death of Royal's pitcher Yordano Ventura, she traveled to the Dominican Republic to understand his last year of life. She has also surveyed birds in Alaska and Arizona for the U.S. Forest Service.

Her work has included several impactful projects including the documentary, *Murder Factory*, and coverage of the "right-sizing" plan to shutter 26 Kansas City public schools. She was nominated for a regional Emmy for a video story about a teacher who donated a kidney to her school's principal and was a member of a team whose investigative series about government secrecy in Kansas was a Pulitzer Prize finalist.

OBITUARIES

Shelbina

Larry Freels

Larry Wayne Freels, 81, longtime newspaper publisher, died Aug. 12, 2023, at Knox County Nursing Home in Edina.

During his newspaper career, he worked for the *Shelbina Democrat*, the *Kirkville Daily Express* and the *Waynesville Daily Guide*.

During the Vietnam War, Freels was a combat medic in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by a daughter, Kimberly; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and many more family and friends.



Send obits for
Missouri Press News to
mbarba@mopress.com.



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.

Photojournalism Hall of Fame — Richard Miller

Missouri Rural Newspaper Scholarship Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives

Society of 1867

Donald Dodd, Lila Gunn, Greg Jackson, Kathy Kiely,
Bill Kuykendall, Anne Ledbetter, Jean Maneke,
Joseph Martineau, Daryl Moen, *Mound City News*,
Keith & Kathleen Myers, Paul & Kim Ratcliffe, David Rees,
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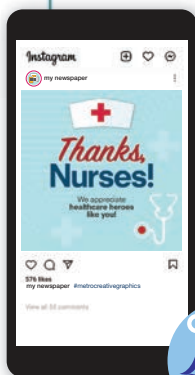
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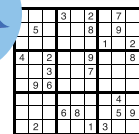
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Prepare yourself for when law enforcement comes knocking

I've been asked to devote this column to the subject of what you should do if what happened in Marion, Kansas, should ever happen to you. (I presume that every one of you know what I'm talking about without further explanation.)

There will be specific suggestions in a bit, but first I want to make sure all of you have heard of the Privacy Protection Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C.A. § 2000aa). Congress passed this law in response to a U.S. Supreme Court decision that upheld a search of a student press newsroom by officers seeking photographs taken at a demonstration during the Vietnam War era.

The newsroom was left in shambles (although the search ended fruitlessly). The lawsuit, *Zurcher v. Stanford Daily*, alleged First and Fourteenth Amendment violations, unsuccessfully. The Court upheld the right of city police to make the search.

In those days, Congress felt it critical to support journalists' rights and this law was passed. It states "... Notwithstanding any other law, it shall be unlawful for a government officer or employee, in connection with the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense, to search for or seize any work product materials possessed by a person reasonably believed to have a purpose to disseminate to the public a newspaper, book, broadcast, or other similar form of public communication, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce;"

Before such a search is to occur, a court must have issued a court order finding there is probable cause to believe a criminal offense is being committed by the person possessing such material. In other words, a journalist is to be given notice that law enforcement is seeking the material being sought and a hearing held to determine if law enforcement has "probable cause" to believe such material exists and the journalist is involved in a criminal offense.

The law also says it is a good faith defense to the journalist if he or she has

"...a reasonable good faith belief in the lawfulness of his conduct." In other words, the journalist cannot be actively involved in a crime, there cannot be a danger of bodily harm or loss of life to a third person involved, or a danger the material sought will be destroyed.

The law allows for recovery of damages, actual or liquidated, in an amount of \$1,000 or more. More importantly, the law allows for recovery of your attorneys' fees. (You can find this language at Section 2000aa-12 of the Act.)

So, what steps should a newsroom and its staff take to protect itself from such incidents? First, your reporters and management need to be aware this law exists and what it says. Maybe that means post it on the bulletin board so you can easily refer to it.

Be aware this applies not only to your newsroom but also anywhere a journalist works. How many of you work at home? In your cars? Even if you are sitting in the neighborhood coffee shop and law enforcement shows up, you need to know this law covers you at that spot where you are working.

Beyond that, if they are at your office door, you may cite the law but cannot refuse entry. The next step is probably to call your lawyer, advise law enforcement you are doing that and ask them to wait until your lawyer can discuss this with them. A tidy desk is not a bad idea, because if law enforcement chooses to ignore this law, you have no reason to make it easy for them.

Phones should be kept secured and computers, also, — both always good ideas but especially if you are working on a controversial project. Of course,

"And if the search warrant doesn't specify specific evidence, point out to law enforcement that the warrant may be defective."

as we've seen in Marion, Kansas, they may just confiscate those items.

If you are present while this is ongoing, your lawyer would find it helpful if you would record it on your phone. Take detailed notes about what

was said. What documents were disturbed by law enforcement and what documents were taken. Make it clear that they are examining confidential reporter's records.

Some sources suggest you find out what they are looking for and surrender those documents in order to protect other materials from being disturbed in your office, but that is a judgment call only you can make and I would not necessarily recommend anyone voluntarily do that — if you do, make it clear you are not surrendering the document voluntarily but under protest.

And if the search warrant doesn't specify specific evidence, point out to law enforcement that the warrant may be defective.

While one hopes that will never happen to a media entity in Missouri, it has happened at least once in the past. Claire McCaskill, while a prosecuting attorney, violated the law in 1994 in seeking a videotape of a broadcast station that allegedly showed a kidnap victim being taken, and was subsequently found liable for damages.

So be prepared and forewarned!



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

Member opinion: *Marion, We've Been There.*

By Beth McPherson

From the Weston Chronicle

The Weston Chronicle

We still don't know where the documents came from but nearly 14 years ago, we were the subject of the same kind of investigation as the *Marion County (KS) Record* is undergoing. Ours didn't rise to confiscation of computers and phones that the Police Chief performed in his raid on *The Marion County Record*.

But I can tell you, when the police come in asking questions about your sources, it's not fun. The fact that it was ordered by the Mayor and City Council at the time was deeply disappointing and frightening. It's not something you forget. Ever.

Newspaper, radio, and TV reporters build stories through many different sources, including confidential sources and documents public officials sometimes hope never see the light of day. Journalists are protected, usually, by their First Amendment rights.

Sometimes the law prevents the use of some documents, as appears to be the case in Marion, (and they didn't use them) and sometimes they're accidentally made open to the public by their dissemination.

That's what happened with the documents in our case.

They were explosive reports from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, a natural causes death in Weston and an investigative report and statement by the Weston Police Department.

They detailed the back story to the arrest and conviction of Kyle Zumbrunn October 15. After his sentencing, our story went cold until December 11.

That day, documents were left on the front desk in our office when a lone employee was helping a customer and didn't see who dropped the documents off.

All are associated with the theft of drugs from the Weston Police Department evidence room and the subsequent arrest of former officer Kyle Zumbrunn. They also detailed how three city officials withheld news of the theft from the aldermen starting at the time the theft was discovered July 5, 2009, until the officer's arrest September 22.

Instead of calling in the Sheriff's Department or Missouri Highway Patrol, they began their own investigation, centered on the Weston Chief of Police.

When we got the documents, we immediately called various officials to make certain they were authentic. Officials scrambled to suggest they should be kept closed and that a crime might have been committed by the person who shared them.

Fearing a raid, we sent copies to two attorneys for safe keeping.

These were all closed records until copies were given to the Mayor and Board members by the Police Chief as part of his report to them after the arrest and before they were left with us.

Missouri Press Attorney and Missouri Sunshine Law expert Jean Maneke said the records were open because they had been retained by non-police personnel. "They made the internal reports public if they haven't voted to close the records," she said. They hadn't.

Ms. Maneke added that discussing the matter in closed session may have been a violation of the Sunshine Law. "They weren't talking about a lawsuit or other legal action," she said. "And when did your Board of Aldermen start directing police activities?"

"Never," according to Alderman Cliff Harvey. On and off the board over about a 10-year period, Mr. Harvey said he could not remember another time the board had directed the police to begin a criminal investigation.

On December 14, the police sergeant came in to see the documents and asked for copies. We did not provide them. Asked if this was an investigation, he said yes.

Chief Terry Blanton was surprised when asked about it an hour later. "No, we're not doing an investigation," he said.

But after a two-hour closed session December 14, the aldermen directed Police Chief Terry Blanton to see what he could find out about the documents that came to us.

The next morning, an investigation was logged in the Police Log Book by the Chief.

It ended for us that Tuesday morning when he approached us at the office asking where the documents came from. We told him how they were received and that was the end of it, as far as we know.

No raid, no arrests and my mother is still alive.

It doesn't mean someone won't try it again.

Beth McPherson is editor of the Weston Chronicle. This column was originally published Aug. 16, 2023.

"People often ask us why we watch our local governments so closely, and our reply is, 'Because this is where it starts. They get away with it at the local level, then move up, continue and the crimes get worse.' In light of this recent raid, I think there are some precautions we will take besides having attorneys on speed dial."

— Beth McPherson

Member opinion:

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Kansas newspaper raid proves the fight to save local journalism is real

By Greg Farmer

From The Kansas City Star

When Marion, Kansas, Police Chief Gideon Cody chose to raid the town's newspaper, he went looking for a fight.

Well, he found one.

The raid was blatant overreach, not just illegal but the kind of thing that seems unbelievable to many observers. As one of my colleagues who lives out of state said, "I thought it was a movie or something."

Here's the lesson that those who would choose to abuse their power should take from this: You'll regret it.

In this case, Cody's actions meant *The Star*, our sister paper *The Wichita Eagle* and countless other news organizations wanted to know exactly what was up with this police chief in Marion.

And we weren't going to stop till we figured it out and could tell everyone.

More than a dozen *Star* and *Eagle* journalists have worked day and night since the raid to ensure our readers would learn the truth.

Cody was just one of the angles we pursued. The *Record* had investigated his background before the raid, and we were told reports alleging misconduct by Cody from his years at KCPD were made through the Office of Community Complaints. We requested the complaints but were told they are not public records. We disagree, and our attorney is challenging that decision.

But legal issues don't resolve quickly, and we knew readers needed to know about Cody right away. So *Star* reporters Glenn Rice and Luke Nozicka talked to everyone they could reach who they thought might know what had happened. After three days of hard work, their efforts paid off.

The *Star* published a piece explaining how Cody had, as a captain in the Kansas City Police Department, faced demotion and discipline when he decided to leave after 24 years at the KCPD and head to Marion for nearly half his previous salary.

As the reporters explained, Cody made insulting and sexist comments to a female officer and had been under internal investigation when he left in April.

That's what multiple sources – eight to be exact – told *The Star*. The reporters found more sources willing to talk to us than I thought possible. Those sources couldn't use their names, both for fear of retaliation and because it related to a personnel issue, but in the news business when you have that many people with knowledge of what happened telling you the same thing, you know you've found the truth.

These sources come from all levels of the KCPD past and present and chose to tell us what happened because like many of our readers they, too, were outraged by his actions, both in Marion and with his female colleague before that.

This is the kind of work our

journalists and those at local media organizations across America are doing every day to ensure that abuse of power is exposed and eliminated. Without local journalists – persistent and committed professionals with a direct stake in the towns where they live and work – too many stories like Cody's would go untold.

And here's the great irony: If Cody hadn't led that raid on the *Marion County Record* offices and other locations, no one would know what he did in Kansas City. The *Record* had decided not to publish because they weren't able to get the confirmation they needed.

Ideally we would be able to count on local institutions like KCPD not to let Cody move into the role of Marion police chief without informing that town about the complaints against him. But we know we can't depend on that kind of transparency from KCPD or many other organizations.

That's why local journalism is essential. Truth matters, and it informs citizens to make the best decisions possible.

And because of local journalism we now know what happened with Cody at the KCPD. With that information, Marion officials and the town's residents have what they need to decide what's best for their future.

Greg Farmer is The Star's executive editor. This column was originally published Aug. 17 online at <https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/article278336654.html>. It has been edited for length.



Mark Maassen is the new president of Newspaper Association Managers, celebrating its 100th year. He succeeds Laurie Hieb. (Submitted photo)

Columbia — Mark Maassen, executive director of Missouri Press Association, was elected president of Newspaper Association Managers, Inc. (NAM), during the group's 100th Annual Summer Conference Aug. 4 in Denver, the city where the organization was founded in 1923.

Maassen will serve a one-year term as president of NAM. He joined MPA as executive director in 2015 and served as the Association's president in 2013, while working for *The Kansas City Star*.

Celebrating its centennial year, NAM is a consortium of state, provincial, and national trade groups representing the newspaper media industry in the United States and Canada.

Also elected were officers Vice President Brian Allfrey, Utah Press Association, and Secretary Phil Lucey, North Carolina Press Association. Emily Bradbury, Kansas Press Association, was elected to a three-year term.

Laurie Hieb, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, is immediate past president. Continuing director is Ashley Wimberley, Arkansas Press Association. Layne Bruce, Mississippi Press Association, serves as the organization's clerk.

Member opinion: *Journalists carry out a vital role in society*

By Ken Garten

For the Independence Examiner

Yes, I'm a country lawyer, happily practicing law in Eastern Jackson County.

I also have the privilege of hacking out a semi-weekly piece for *The Examiner*.

And while I make my living practicing law, I am still a newspaper nerd that takes two dailies and tries to read them both.

But before I ever went to law school a long, long time ago, I studied journalism. That was at SMSU, Southwest Missouri State University, in lovely Springfield, Mo.

Now known as Missouri State, that is where I took courses like Exposition, Technical Writing, Journalistic Editing, Magazine Writing, and something called Linguistics.

How I ended up majoring in writing — my third declared major in a year and a half — with a minor in journalism, is that the English Department at SMSU was blessed with a number of inspirational educators.

One was Dale Freeman, who retired as long-time head editor of the *Springfield News-Leader* to teach

aspiring young journalists.

Sitting through one of Dale Freeman's journalism classes, with his wit, wisdom and charm, made you want to run right out and buy a newspaper.

I'm not talking about buying an issue of the newspaper but a whole newspaper operation that functions as what Dale Freeman referred to as the "Fourth Estate," the fourth prong of the system of checks and balances after the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, and assume the role of a voice of right and reason in some fine community.

Because that's a critical function of the press in a free society.

But much has changed in the newspaper business since the 1980's.

Back then, everybody had their news and information delivered by way of a newspaper being thrown into their driveway. Now everybody has every newspaper, blog and magazine accessible to them in the palm of their hand or at their desk or kitchen table, and not very many newspapers get delivered anymore.

Production costs for paper, ink and distribution have put newspapers at a competitive disadvantage to the online

bloggers and commentators who disseminate their information with the click of a touch screen.

The newspaper business has never been tougher, and I've heard the newspaper world described as a dying breed more than once.

Still, when I read at the top of the front page of this publication: "The Examiner. Serving Eastern Jackson County, Missouri Since 1898", I am amazed, and also proud to have been a very small part of this production for the last 20 years.

I also worry about the future of local journalism as the forces of technology and economics continue to impose challenges on the old ways of the press.

So let me end this short piece by expressing my deepest appreciation for my colleagues at *The Examiner* who are always so gracious and dedicated and supportive; the loyal advertisers who support this important institution; and you, the readers, who are the reason we do this.

Ken Garten is a Blue Springs attorney. Email him at krgarten@yahoo.com. This column was originally published by the Independence Examiner on June 24.



Grand Marshal Conger

Phil Conger, publisher of the *Bethany Republican-Clipper* and 2012 Missouri Press Association president, was chosen by the Bethany Area Chamber of Commerce to be Grand Marshal of the annual Bill and Liz Hogan Independence Day parade, held on the Fourth of July. Joining Conger in the lead convertible is his wife, Kathy Conger, who is also the *Republican-Clipper's* advertising manager. (Submitted photo)

Licking — The Group Duncan Corporation purchased *The Licking News* last month. Previously, Group Duncan developed *Houston Sports Weekly* in Texas into one of that area's most-read sports publications.



Rick Duncan

Rick Duncan, president of Group Duncan, is the newspaper's new publisher, however previous staff will remain employed, including Shari Harris, the previous owner, and Managing Editor Christy Porter.

"I have always had a passion for news outlets, especially sports and small-town media, where reporting is not tainted," Duncan told readers in announcing the change of ownership. "Shari and Christy have done a fantastic job with the newspaper and Group Duncan is excited to invest in the paper, taking it to the next level, especially with expansions on local, county and state sporting events and enhancing the essence of the overall local news."

Duncan said that the paper will not be altered from providing readers sound and honest reporting and no major changes will be enacted, just positive expansion.

"The paper will remain the local outlet wherein the readers will still receive the same local news, but with more in-depth coverage and much more sports coverage for all the area's school athletic events," he said.

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Open Records Reporting: Dear Belle Aldermen and Mayor

Editor's note: In recognition of the Missouri Sunshine Law's 50th anniversary, Missouri Press News is sharing the efforts of Association members who raise awareness about the law and its importance to an informed citizenry. This column and the abridged story on the following page is a sample of collected coverage from the Maries County Advocate regarding ongoing issues with the Belle City Council and alleged violations of the Sunshine Law.

By Jacob Warden

From the Aug. 9 edition of the Maries County Advocate

We want to take a moment to address some questions about why we feel the City of Belle hosted an illegal meeting on July 31, and explain our concerns and the ramifications thereof.

The meeting was posted at the end of business on Friday. We printed information provided by City Hall that the posting happened around 5 p.m. After the story was printed, the mayor contested it, and so we requested video records from the city of Belle. This would allow the mayor to prove his information.

The city complied with the records request, but the video from Friday, July 28, had already been deleted by Aug. 4 due to the security camera loop. However, a time stamp on the creation of the meeting notice in Word showed the file was created at 4:58 p.m. on July 28, and the treasurer, whose time card was timestamped at 5:05 p.m. said she posted it before she left for the day, though "it wasn't the last thing she did."

The time of the notice could be interpreted as less than 24-hours notice as notices exclude weekends and holidays when city hall is closed.

Our concern is if the meeting notice was announced after the close of business, that means that notice would not count as a legal notice until Monday at 7 a.m. when the office reopens. This brings the question, did the city meet the 24-hour notice requirement?

According to Sunshine Law 610.020(1), notices shall be given at least twenty-four hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays when the business is closed. According to our attorney, this could mean that the timer for notice stops after the city closes on Friday to resume when business opens on Monday. Meaning to give the full notice for a meeting at 6 p.m. on a Monday, it is required to be published, generally by the end of business on Thursday, at the latest by Friday morning. We are requesting that the Attorney General's office make a ruling on this issue due to it's complexity.

The meeting notice did not include a timestamp when it was posted. This would have clarified some of the questions above about when the meeting was posted. Examples of a notice of meetings in the Missouri Sunshine Law book list the requirements of a posted notice in bold, including date, time, and place a meeting will be held.

MARIES
COUNTY **Advocate**
SINCE 2016

Probably worse, the notice had the wrong date. The Mayor has expressed that this entire issue is over a "typo that Charro made." This is a more significant issue than a typo. Miss-spelling a name or word in the agenda would be a typo and would not cause problems. However, this is the date. This is the equivalent of the police showing up with a search warrant with the wrong address and still proceeding to search the house. It won't stand up in court. The date is the entire point of the document. This again would void the meeting notice. Because of these issues, we notified the city of Belle about the discrepancies with the notice at 2:59 p.m. on July 31 via email. The city moved forward with the meeting and continued to take action on posted agenda items.

An agenda item in the open session was passing ordinances. Because the meeting lacked proper announcement, it may be considered void. A 2004 case between R.E.J., Inc v. City of Sikeston (Sunshine Law book) found that the "City that violated the notice requirements for meeting in adopting an ordinance may have that ordinance voided even if the city repealed the ordinance after being sued."

Aldermen may want to consider passing these ordinances again in a properly advertised meeting, or checking with the city attorney to see if the first passage was legal.

The City of Belle is currently in the middle of a Sunshine violation investigation, so getting this right should be important to board members and citizens alike. While this may seem like a small thing, please know, it isn't. The city is believed to be in constant violation of the Sunshine Law; almost every meeting has had an issue.

If the city is OK with making this many violations, when will it stop? What further actions will the city take? A corrective course is needed.

The citizens of Belle are entitled to know what the city is working on. The Sunshine Law is the law that gives the citizens that knowledge.

This is more important to the citizens of Belle because the citizens pay for any action the city takes.

We, as the newspaper of record, have no opinion about the ordinances the city of Belle passes. However, we do have a problem when failure to give proper notice of a meeting and agenda items prevent the public from being involved and the newspaper from reporting the discussion and results. Yes, not giving proper notice of time before a meeting and adding things to the agenda last minute hides city business from the public.

The original article is available online at bit.ly/3YH6BT5. It has been edited for length.

Open Records Reporting: Missouri AG's Office investigating possible Sunshine violations in Belle

By Roxie Murphy

*From the July 26 edition of the
Maries County Advocate*

Former Belle aldermen, city employee, and a sheriff's deputy recall their versions of the proceedings of previous city meetings, which directly contradict statements made by the mayor in a July 18 letter to the Missouri Attorney General's Office (AGO).

Mayor Daryl White Jr.'s 11-point letter to the AGO in response to allegations of Sunshine Law violations made by the Maries County Sheriff includes introductory statements that contradict previously reported information by a former local newspaper.

White said in the letter that, "I was mayor 20 years ago, the cause of my resignation was I had purchased property outside of the city limits."

However, a Feb. 14, 2007, edition of the Belle Banner — a former newspaper — published that White cleared out his mayoral office the following morning after he was presented with proof of misappropriating city funds for cell phone and internet bills.

Conversations with former appointed representatives and city employees directly refute 16 points the mayor made in his response to the AGO.

In the first point, White said two former aldermen neglected to give him access to Facebook pages ... to share meeting information and news.

Former alderman Kayla Bray countered that the page was created at White's request.

"He was created in there as an admin and had full access to that page," said Bray, who resigned Nov. 1, 2022.

Sundi Jo Graham, a former alderman, made a similar statement.

In his second and third points, White said a former clerk was the issue behind the city's poor record keeping and inconsistent posting. He alleged the clerk was fired and a new clerk hired so the problem had been resolved. However, City Clerk Frankie

Horstman confirmed she was hired under former mayor Josh Seaver, prior to the allegations of Sunshine Law violations that began after White took office. Graham also confirmed.

White further alleged since Horstman came back, all meetings were posted properly. However, Bray disagreed that meetings were posted accurately or that agendas were adhered to, at no fault of Horstman's.

The city's police services contract was not listed on any agenda, but was brought up and voted on during a budget meeting.

White alleged in his fourth point that, "We thought (an announced budget meeting) was a proper time to discuss (the Maries County police services contract) since we would have to establish a budget."

White said in item seven that the board "does occasionally amend the agenda...at the beginning of council meetings, and normally for time-sensitive or emergency situations."

Bray disagreed. "I know there were several occasions where we got the meeting started where (White) would add things after the fact to discuss in public session after the time had passed to add it to the agenda," Bray said.

Furthermore, White contends in his letter to the AGO that neither he nor the board has ever turned off *The Maries County Advocate's* recorder.

"We have never turned off a recorder and turned it back on unless we went into closed session," White contended. "We have never hidden anything from the public."

"Everyone knows he is the one that turned it off," Bray said contended about *The Advocate's* recorder.

Baretich said he remembers the recorder sitting in front of White and knows it was turned off, but isn't 100 percent sure by who.

White alleged in item 10 that resignations of a former alderman and marshal were not provided to *The*

Advocate on Nov. 1, 2022, because they had not been approved by the board and one person had asked to rescind. Both parties deny they requested to take back their resignations.

"I never tried to take my resignation back," said Joe Turnbough, former marshal.

"I never asked for my resignation to be rescinded," Bray said.

In his response to allegation 11, White said, "The newspaper has never been uninvited to a meeting." Both Bray and Chief Deputy Scott John with the Maries County Sheriff's Department said they heard White say otherwise.

"Sheriff Heitman was invited to an official meeting with Mayor Daryl White to discuss the termination of police services," John said. "Sheriff Heitman felt it would be prudent to have a local reporter, Roxie Murphy, there to cover the discussion. When we showed up, the mayor refused to have the meeting if Roxie was going to be present and that they would only have the meeting if she left."

All five of these former city officials and employees agreed to go on the record in objection to White's statement that, "any violations that the city may have committed were done with lack of knowledge or misunderstanding, never with ill intent and we have taken steps to correct those errors."

The AGO would also like to clarify a statement made by White in the July 12 edition of *The Advocate* regarding in-person and telephone interaction he said he had with Jay Turner, the AGO's director of Sunshine Compliance.

"Mr. Turner has never met with the mayor of Belle in person," said Madeline Sieren, communications director for Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey's Office. "We did not meet with the mayor in person. We have not met with him at all."

The original article is available online at bit.ly/45icsAu. It has been edited for length.



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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 to participants. Lessons are designed to take the layperson to a functioning newspaper reporter upon completion in a straight-forward and comprehensive approach.

It's also a great tool to give your sales people some additional training in case they stumble upon a story while making the rounds in the community.

Earn Your Press Pass began as a cooperative project with the Kansas Press Association and Lindsey Young, part owner of Kansas Publishing Ventures, which operates four community weekly newspapers in south central Kansas. Previously a high school teacher, Young has experience instructing students in everything from English to public speaking to journalism.

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.

And don't forget, after your staff earn their press pass from the above program, contact Missouri Press and we can issue an MPA press pass for them to keep on their person.

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