

# MP MISSOURI PRESS NEWS

*We're so glad we could meet you  
in St. Louis!*



**Photojournalism Hall of Fame inducts four | P12**

## REGULAR FEATURES

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# Send requests for 2024 press cards

## From Missouri Press Staff

Submit requests for 2024 press cards and 2024-2025 MPA auto stickers today by going online or emailing staffers' names to Kristie Fortier at [kfortier@mopress.com](mailto:kfortier@mopress.com)

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

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

Members can also request copies of the 2024 MPA sticker calendar.

## Email distribution list

Are all your staff who should be receiving Missouri Press emails signed up? Much of the Association's communication with our members is through email, and we want to ensure everyone stays informed. We also distribute statewide ads via email.

If someone needs to be added, please send the names, job titles and email addresses to Matthew Barba at [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com)



# Remember: A digital copy of your newspaper is required

## From Missouri Press Staff

Uploading your newspaper digitally to NewzGroup for the purpose of digital tear sheets is a requirement of Missouri Press Association membership.

If you are not uploading digital copies of your newspaper, contact Ted Lawrence at [tlawrence@mopress.com](mailto:tlawrence@mopress.com) or by phone at (573) 449-4167, ext. 312, for more information.

Please note, this requirement for a digital version of your newspaper is separate from and does not circumvent the need to continue uploading to Missouri Press' public notice website, [mopublicnotices.com](http://mopublicnotices.com).

Uploading your public notices to the Association's website is one of newspapers' best defenses against efforts to remove them from third-party publications.



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# CALENDAR

**2023**

**November**

**15** — Deadline to Return MPS

Agreements

**18** — Missouri Press Association

Mizzou Tailgate, Time TBA, Columbia

Missourian

**2024**

**January**

**21** — Proposed USPS Postage Rate

Increases Go Into Effect

**April**

**18-19** — MPAME Annual Meeting,

Hilton Promenade Hotel, Branson

Landing

## Did you know?

You can find all of the latest registration forms for Missouri Press' events online at [www.mopress.com](http://www.mopress.com).

The website also has award nomination forms, board of director applications and much more.



# Don't miss out on a Potter Digital Ambassador

## For Missouri Press News

Since 2018, the Potter Digital Ambassadors program at the MU School of Journalism has helped more than 25 Missouri newsrooms upgrade their multimedia and social media skills.

The program has proved effective at helping these newsrooms bring more readers to all of their news platforms.

## There is no cost to newspapers for this program.

MU journalism students are paired with community newspapers and spend a week training staff in the on-site newsroom to understand the latest digital tools and how to use them to boost readership and improve content. Students will work Jan. 8-12, during their winter break.

Potter Digital Ambassadors is underwritten by MU alum and



community publisher Walt Potter Jr., whose interest is strengthening the position of community newspapers.

These students, all advanced in their journalism fields, are proficient in audio and video software, for example, to create outstanding products for a website. The students are also accomplished at working on Google Analytics, social media, email newsletters, search engine optimization and other platforms to reach a wide variety of readers and potential subscribers.

The ambassadors are selected

through a process that emphasizes their skills background, as well as their personal background. They are paired with newspapers based on complementary interests and abilities.

If you would like to talk to newsrooms that have already benefited from this program, we'd be happy to put you in touch. Previous sites include Jefferson City, Poplar Bluff, Moberly, Mexico, Perryville, Maryville, Gallatin, Sedalia, Eldon, Washington, Warrensburg, West Plains, Owensville and more.

All you need to do is declare your interest in having a Potter Digital Ambassador in your newsroom. Again, there is no cost for this program.

Email Elizabeth Stephens, [stephensec@missouri.edu](mailto:stephensec@missouri.edu), who coordinates the program. Just tell her you're interested in having an ambassador.

## 2024 MPS NEWSPAPER AGREEMENTS ARE IN THE MAIL!

### Keep a look out for the 2024 MPS Agreements.

2024 is a Missouri Newspaper Directory year so make sure to completely fill out the agreement so we have the most up-to-date rates in our system and your most up-to-date information in the 2024-2025 Missouri Newspaper Directory.

There is also a fillable pdf on our website at [www.mopress.com](http://www.mopress.com).

Please have all agreements returned no later than **November 15, 2023** to ensure all updated information makes it in the new directory.

Return completed agreement via email to [jpatton@mopress.com](mailto:jpatton@mopress.com)



# Five join Newspaper Hall of Fame at 157th Annual Convention

*MPA's 33rd class of honorees inducted during ceremony in St. Louis.*

**From Missouri Press Staff**

*Missouri Press News*

The 157th Annual Convention and Trade Show in St. Louis included the induction of Missouri Press Association's 33rd class of the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame.

Inductees this year included 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*.

More than 160 people have been inducted into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame since it was established in 1991.



**Dan Wehmer, owner and publisher of the *Webster County Citizen* in Seymour, was inducted into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame. Wehmer has been at the *Citizen* since joining the staff part-time in 1996 and became owner of the newspaper in March 2017. MPA Past President Jeff Schrag, right, presented the Pinnacle Awards to inductees.**



**Fred Sweets takes pictures on his phone of Newspaper Hall of Fame inductee Dr. Donald Suggs, publisher of the *St. Louis American*. Suggs has been at the helm of the *American* for nearly 40 years, helping to lead its growth into becoming the state's largest weekly newspaper. (Staff photos)**

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. 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.

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 until retirement in 1969. 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. He also served as city editor for the *Columbia Missourian* during much of what would become the longest faculty tenure at the journalism school.

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*. Attending college in Virginia, she returned to Missouri to become a feature writer for *The Kansas City Star*, earning awards for an investigative series regarding state-run schools for the mentally disabled and another on state psychiatric hospitals. She joined The Associated Press in 1976 as an editor on the World Desk in the New York City headquarters and future journalism roles included working for newspapers in Arizona and teaching as an adjunct professor.

**Continued on Page 5**



## **From Page 4:** *Hall of Fame inductees have made exemplary contributions to the industry.*



**Laura Mitchell White talks about her late mother, Jane See White's 40-plus years in journalism during the Newspaper Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Laura was joined by Jane White's sister, Laura White Erdel and brother, Mitch White. Jane See White is the fourth member of her family to join the Newspaper Hall of Fame. (Staff photos)**

For nearly 40 years, as publisher and executive editor, Dr. Donald M. Suggs has helped lead and grow the *St. Louis American*. 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. 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 dozen institutions of higher learning that offer scholarships in his name shows his ongoing commitment to making a better Missouri.

Dan Wehmer came to the *Webster County Citizen* in Seymour in August 1996 as a part-time special assignment writer and less than six months later



**Jan Potts accepts the Newspaper Hall of Fame Pinnacle Award on behalf of her late grandfather, Eugene Webster Sharp. With 45 years of teaching at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, Sharp helped to shape the educations of thousands of journalism students who attend the school.**

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 and never saying "no" to helping however he can.

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.

Nomination forms for 2024 inductees to the Newspaper Hall of Fame can be found on the Association's website, [www.mopress.com](http://www.mopress.com), or by contacting a member of Missouri Press staff. Nominations can be submitted through March 31 for consideration to be inducted at the 158th Annual Convention and Trade Show in Springfield.



**Ebony Reed accepted the Pinnacle Award on behalf of the late Terez Paylor, who covered sports for *The Kansas City Star*, including the Chiefs beat. Joining Reed at the induction ceremony were some of Paylor's coworkers from *The Star*, including from left, Sam Mellinger, Vahe Gregorian, Reed, and Blair Kerkoff.**



# MPA rocks the night away



Carol and Rockin' Roger Dillon, and Sandy Nelson and sister Laura Hanne are ready to boogie woogie, twist, shout and maybe even watusi at the Missouri Press Foundation's Thursday night social. In addition to live music from The Lost Dog Band, the evening featured a dessert auction fundraiser that helped raise almost \$900 for the Foundation. (Staff photos)



With a rebel yell, Mike Scott is ready to kick off this year's Convention as Billy Idol.



At left, Bryan Jones, as Animal from Muppets band Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem, and Angela Jones, as Stevie Nicks are ready to rock, roll and rumour the night away.

On the cover, clockwise, Dan Wehmer addresses the crowd at this year's Newspaper Hall of Fame induction; Mark Maassen and Jim Sterling complement each other for the Thursday night social; hundreds gather to celebrate the Hall of Fame inductees; and Mará Rose Williams leads a panel discussion on diversity.



Bryan Chester does his best Barry Manilow impression during the Missouri Press Foundation Thursday night social to start the 157th Annual Convention in St. Louis.



Brian Brooks, left, president of the Missouri Press Foundation Board of Directors, welcomes guests before turning over the mic to Jeff Schrag, who served as auctioneer for the dessert fundraiser. Desserts were donated by members of the Missouri Press Association, Service and Foundation boards.



Nancy and Jim Sterling, Dave Berry and Gaila Rue are on a mission to have a good time at this year's Thursday night social for the Foundation.



# Thanks for meeting us in St. Louis!



Jacob Warden really enjoys the dessert his table shared at the Thursday night social. It was one of more than a dozen desserts donated for the dessert auction that raised almost \$900 for Missouri Press Foundation.



Missouri Press Association President-elect Amos Bridges presented this year's Outstanding Young Journalists (OYJ) with plaques and checks for \$500 during the Better Newspaper Contest luncheon at the 157th Annual Convention in St. Louis. OYJ recipients include, from left, Samantha Tucker of the *Daily American Republic*, Poplar Bluff; Sophia Bales of the *Richmond News*; Greta Cross of the *Springfield News-Leader*; and Allison Kite of the *Missouri Independent*, Kansas City. (Staff photos)



Robert Lachky, former chief creative officer for Anheuser Busch, chats with Jeff Schrag, who founded Mother's Brewery in Springfield, before the former speaks Friday morning at Missouri Press' 157th Annual Convention in St. Louis.



The agenda for this year's Convention included a diversity panel led by Mará Rose Williams, far right, assistant managing editor for race & equity issues at *The Kansas City Star*. Panelists included, from left, Taylor Freeman, reporter and anchor for KOMU8 in Columbia; Rebecca Rivas, multimedia reporter for the *Missouri Independent*; and Echo Menges, editor of the *Edina Sentinel* and president of the Missouri Sunshine Coalition.



At left, from left, Dave Berry, Jeanine York, Joe May and Doug Crews catch up during the 157th Annual Convention and Trade Show. Far left bottom photo, Katelynn Mary Skaggs is stoked about the sweet swag she scored from The Associated Press' tradeshow table.

Find more photos from Missouri Press' St. Louis Convention and other events throughout the year on the Association's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/missouri.press](http://www.facebook.com/missouri.press).



*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.*

**Thank you to everyone who made a pre-convention donation and a gift during our convention. We are so very grateful. Because of your support, we raised nearly \$20,000 in funds for the Foundation.**

**Society of 1867** – Dennis Ellsworth, Jean Maneke, Natha McAllister, Beth Pike, Walt Potter, Donald & Jeannie Warden, Suzie Wilson

**In memory of Jane See White** – Dale and Audrey Diggs

**Recurring Monthly Donor** – Martha Pickens

**Live Auction Purchases** – Kia Breaux, Scott Charton, Jean Maneke, Donald Pickney, Gary & Helen Sosniecki, Hannah Spaar, Trevor & Molly Vernon, Dan Wehmer

**Live Auction Donors** – Branson Convention & Visitors Bureau, *Columbia Missourian*, Kansas City Zoo, KC Current, Kevin Jones, Mark Maassen, Missouri Press Association, Orchids & Art, Randy Pribble, Sheraton Westport Chalet, Sight & Sound Theatre, Total Wine & More

**Dessert Auction Purchases** – Amos Bridges, Doug Crews & Joe May, Roger Dillon, Lisa Dresner, Angela Jones, Ted & Vicki Lawrence, Lost Dog Band, Mark Maassen, Jean Maneke, Sandy Nelson, Jeremy Patton, Mike Scott, Kevin Wilson, Leonard Woolsey

**Dessert Auction Donors** – Amos Bridges, Gary Castor, Bryan Chester, Roger Dillon, Kevin Jones, Leader Publications, Sandy Nelson, Beth Pike, Lucas Presson, Tim Schmidt, Jeff & Mary Schrag, Hannah Spaar, Vernon Publishing, Jacob & Jessica Warden

**Silent Auction Purchases** – Amber & Matthew Barba, Dave Berry, Kia Breaux, Betsy Cochran, Lisa Dresner, Laura White Erdel, Jeff Fox, Michael Harper, Laura Hemme, Bryan & Angela Jones, Rudi Keller, Ted & Vicki Lawrence, Rosanne Leake, Sandy Nelson, Beth Pike, Mike Scott, Katelyn Mary Skaggs, Jim & Nancy Sterling, Dennis & Connie Warden

**Silent Auction Donors** – Amp Up, Branson Convention & Visitors Bureau, Columbia Missourian, Doug Crews, Dewey's Pizza, Lyric Opera House, Metro Creative Graphics, Missouri Press Association, Nick's Pub, Soha Bar & Grill, Betty Spaar, St. Louis Cardinals, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Repertory Theatre, Urban Egg, Leonard Woolsey

**Outstanding Young Journalists** – Amber & Matthew Barba, Dave Berry, Donna Bischoff, Amos Bridges, Scott Charton, Bryan Chester, Doug & Tricia Crews, Lisa Dresner, Rudi Keller, David Kurpius, Ted & Vicki Lawrence, Mark Maassen, Jeff & Mary Schrag, Gary & Helen Sosniecki, Elizabeth Stephens, Jim & Nancy Sterling, Donald Suggs, Trevor & Molly Vernon, Dennis & Connie Warden, Jacob & Jessica Warden



# NIE: A total eclipse of the heartland

*On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will traverse the United States, including a large portion of Missouri.*

The Missouri Press Foundation and National Newspaper Association Foundation are continuing their 16-year partnership and offering a new original free series to newspapers across the country for publication.

For 2024 we have written an 8-chapter series that features science, art, language arts and history about solar eclipses. The solar eclipse will occur on April 8 with the path of totality crossing the country from Texas to Maine, including across the southeastern part of Missouri.

A wide swath of totality across the country and that viewers outside the path of totality will still be able to view a partial solar eclipse will ensure newspapers and readers will be drawn to this content.

This series will be offered free of charge to newspapers in Missouri and across the country, with publication beginning January 2024 and ending June 30, 2024. Newspapers will access the material from our download site, [www.mo-nie.com](http://www.mo-nie.com). Each of the eight chapters will include a newspaper activity.

Ads will be created for publication in newspapers prior to the series' run to promote interest. They will be designed so newspapers can easily add their logo.

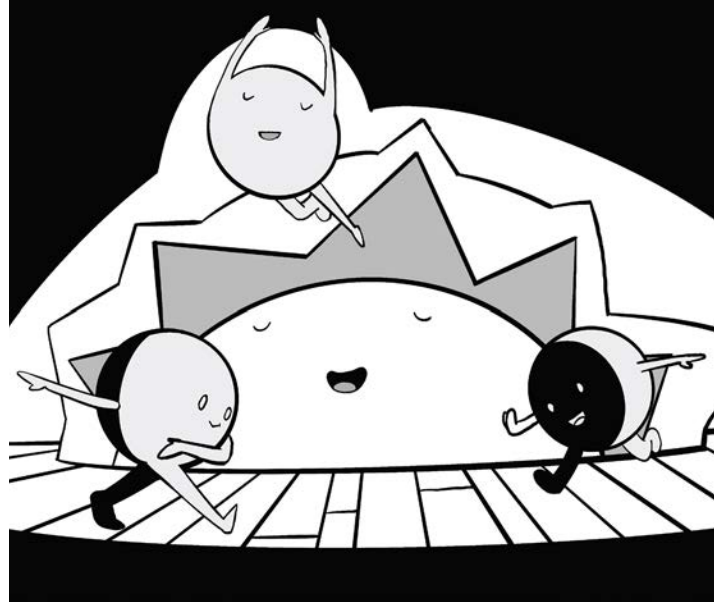
Dr. Linda Maxine Godwin wrote the features with science slants. She is an American scientist and retired NASA astronaut. Godwin joined NASA in 1980 and became an astronaut in July 1986. She retired in 2010.

During her career, Godwin completed four space flights and logged more than 38 days in space. Dr. Godwin is a Professor Emeritus at the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Missouri. She taught in the department for eight years after retiring from NASA in 2010.

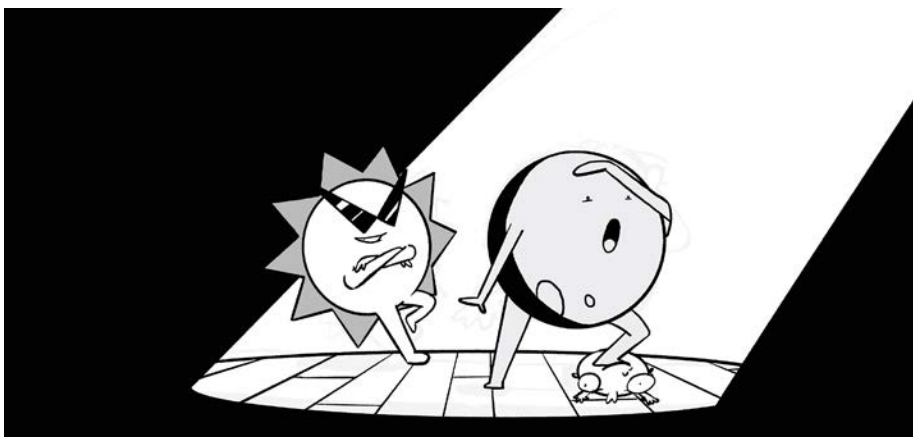
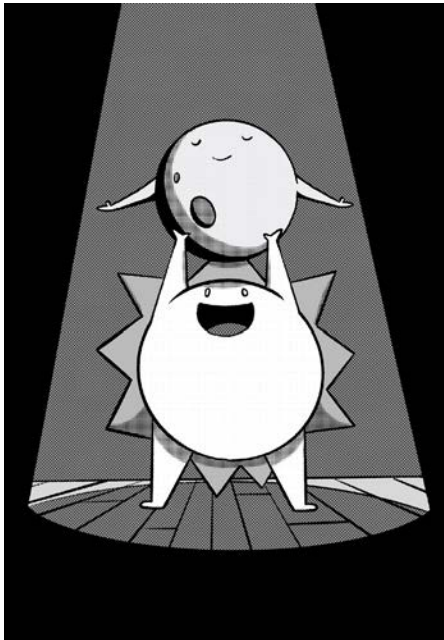
Helen Headrick wrote the features that deal with Art, Language Arts, and Culture. She is Missouri Press Foundation's Newspaper in Education Manager and a former teacher.

Philip Goudeau is illustrating the series. He has illustrated several of our previous series and has chosen a whimsical touch for this one.

Watch our socials, Bulletins and website for more information.



The 2024 Newspaper in Education serial story will focus on a total solar eclipse that will sweep across the United States on April 8. Dr. Linda Maxine Godwin, a former NASA astronaut, wrote part of the serial story. (Submitted graphics/Philip Goudeau)



# Resources to get your story started



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OFFERED BY MISSOURI PRESS SERVICE

**Every Business Needs an Online Presence.**

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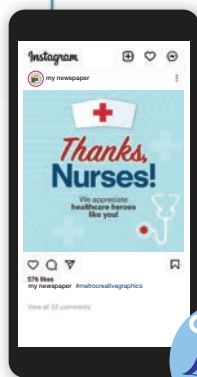
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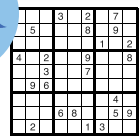


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# USPS announces proposed rate increases for January

*Potential for more changes to come under agency's Delivering for America plan.*

**By Matthew Barba**

*Missouri Press News*

If you haven't already heard, newspapers and other periodicals can expect a sizeable increase in postage beginning Jan. 21, 2024, thanks to what one industry group is calling "punitive" rate adjustments.

Following the U.S. Postal Service's announcement of proposed rate increases, the National Newspaper Association told members in October to expect an approximately 7.3 percent hike for local Within County mailings when new rates go into effect.

NNA Chair John Galer, publisher of *The Journal-News* in Hillsboro, Ill., said in a statement from the association that the dramatic rate increase for local newspapers was a shock.

"It certainly seems as if the Postal Service wants to discourage newspapers from using the mail. At a time when local journalism is already in peril and more newspapers are using the mail to reach subscribers, this increase is simply punitive," Galer said. "We expect both our subscribers and other stakeholders in our community to push back at the subscription increases that will be made necessary by the Postal Service's action."

The January 2024 increase comes after periodicals experienced a more than 8 percent increase in postage prices in July of this year. Periodical mailers also saw a roughly 4 percent increase at the beginning of the year.

## **More changes coming for mail delivery**

During a conference held in September by the Kansas Missouri District postal customer councils, Randy Workman, USPS's director for Business Acceptance Solutions,

confirmed the agency's plan going forward will be for two postal rate increases a year.

"We had to do it," Workman said, adding that USPS will take advantage of allowable price increases as part of USPS' Delivering for America (DFA) plan, published in March 2021.

USPS can increase rates without approval by the Postal Regulatory Commission, as long as they are limited by changes in the Consumer Price Index, or CPI.

Workman said under the 10-year DFA plan, USPS is moving towards a "spoke and wheel" distribution model, with 60 planned regional processing and distribution centers sending mail out to smaller processing centers that then feed into sorting centers where carriers will be located.

Changes to how Missouri's various USPS facilities will be affected have not been finalized. Only one regional processing and distribution center in Richmond, Va. has been opened so far under the DFA, with others, including one in Indianapolis, Ind. planned to open soon.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy testified to Congress earlier this year that while progress on the goals of DFA has been made, the agency is behind the benchmarks laid out in the initial plan.

Under the DFA, one of the most significant impacts to local newspapers will be the changes to local mail sorting and distribution. Workman said the goal is to get up to 200 carriers operating out of one facility and out from local post offices.

Carriers will depart the sorting facility to complete their day's route. Local post offices will remain open to operate retail space and provide PO

Box services without sorting mail.

With the carriers being shifted away from the local post office, your newspaper's DDU, or destination delivery unit, will also change. "Your DDU will follow the carrier," Workman explained. "So, when it's time and where there are changes made, it's not going to change anything for you."

But if an example from Workman plays out when Missouri's USPS facilities are re-organized, it could affect several newspapers. Hypothetically, if a carrier for Centralia is moved to operate out of Columbia (roughly 30 minutes apart), a newspaper won't be able to drop off bundles at the local post office for delivery that day. Instead, the newspaper will have to drop bundles off at Columbia for them to be sorted into the mail stream.

Alternatively, Workman said, if you drop your bundles at the local post office, someone will take them to the sorting facility but that will likely delay delivery by an additional day.

Under the DFA, Workman said USPS' goal is to move the mail with fewer, fuller trucks. For fiscal year 2021, he said periodicals delivery was 75 percent on time but had improved to 88.9 percent on time by the third quarter of FY22.

Workman said many of the service standards USPS had operated under had been a "big façade," so the changes being implemented don't "add a day as much as align what we are capable of doing with what the service standards should have been."

**Another coming change likely to affect a few newspapers is USPS will no longer accept hardcopy postage statements. In February 2024, postage statements will only be accepted electronically.**



The 2023 Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame (PHoF) inductees include, from left, Sally Stapleton; Jill Toyoshiba; the late Randy Cox, who was represented by his widow, Joany Carlin; and Dennis Crider. This year's class was inducted during a ceremony held Oct. 19, hosted at the State Historical Society of Missouri's downtown Columbia headquarters. Special thanks to Dave Marner of the *Gasconade County Republican*, Owensville, and a 2018 inductee of the PHoF, for photos from the event. (Submitted photos/Dave Marner)

# Photojournalism Hall of Fame adds four new members *2023 marks the 19th class to be inducted.*

**From Missouri Press Staff**  
*Missouri Press News*

Last month, the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame in Columbia inducted four award-winning photojournalists, all of whom have left an indelible mark on this state and beyond with their work and the people they have influenced.

Founded in 2005, Hall of Fame inductees this year represent the 19th class and include the late Randy Cox; Dennis Crider of West Plains; Sally Stapleton of Columbia; and Jill Toyoshiba of Kansas City.

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.

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 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



**Dennis Crider reacts as he is introduced as one of this year's inductees of the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame. Crider was a reporter and photographer at the *West Plains Daily Quill* for 39 years before retiring in 2008.**

young photographers and editors as they developed their careers.

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.

**Continued on Page 13**



## From Page 12: Honoring outstanding contributors to visual communication.

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.

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 the *Daily Dunklin Democrat* in Kennett, then run by her father, and she remembers watching her grandfather write stories on Linotype machines in the *Stanberry Headlight* and *Albany Ledger* newsrooms.

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.

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, Toyoshiba decided to pursue photojournalism and joined *The Kansas City Star* as a photojournalist in 2002, expanding her role 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.

More information about the Photojournalism Hall of Fame and its inductees can be found at [photojournalismhalloffame.org](http://photojournalismhalloffame.org).

Photographs made by the inductees



Jill Toyoshiba receives a plaque marking her induction into the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame from Keith Myers. Toyoshiba joined *The Kansas City Star* in 2002 and has covered all manner of stories for the newspaper, winning numerous awards along the way. She was also a member of a team whose investigative series about government secrecy in Kansas was a Pulitzer Prize finalist.. (Submitted photos/Dave Marner)



Sally Stapleton is inducted into the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame by Cliff Schiappa. Stapleton has roots in small Missouri newspapers, but her career took her around the world to cover everything from the ouster of dictator Augusto Pinochet to genocide in Rwanda to the terror attacks of September 11.

will be on display in the Sam B. Cook Hall at the Center for Missouri Studies, located at 605 Elm St., Columbia. Those photographs will join an existing collection by prior inductees.

The Photojournalism Hall of Fame was founded at the urging of Bill Miller Sr., former publisher of the *Washington Missourian*, to recognize

outstanding contributors to visual communication with ties to Missouri.

Sponsors for this year's Hall of Fame induction include Miller's Professional Imaging, Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, Central Bank of Boone County, *Missourian* Media Group of Washington, Missouri and State Historical Society of Missouri.

# Branson Tri-Lakes News purchases Southwest Missouri area newspapers

## From Branson Tri-Lakes News

The *Stone County Republican/Crane Chronicle* and the *Barry County Advertiser* were purchased by Branson Tri-Lakes Newspapers Inc., on Oct. 1.

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* is owned by Lancaster Management Inc., which owns and operates 23 publications in eight states. Lancaster Management also owns Think Tank Media, a digital marketing agency.

Branson Publisher Mandy Farrow will take the helm of the two newly acquired papers and has been named Regional Publisher. She will run the day to day operations of all three publications.

"With the purchase of the Stone County and Barry County papers we have the opportunity to keep a couple small community papers alive," Farrow said. "I have seen

how important community news is to the residents of small towns. The newspaper is the life blood of a community and I am proud to work for a company that sees the need to keep these papers going."

Stan Melton, whose parents the late Missouri State Senator Emory Melton and Jean Melton founded the *Barry County Advertiser*, said he was honored to have followed in his parents' footsteps serving the communities he loves.

"I have felt very privileged to succeed my father, former State Sen. Emory Melton as owner of the *Barry County Advertiser* and the *Stone County Republican/Crane Chronicle* newspapers," Melton said. "We have been very proud to continue the rich history and tradition of both newspaper operations as highly valued and successful members of



Marty Jenkins, left, and Stan Melton handed over the keys to *Stone County Republican* and the *Barry County Advertiser* to Regional Publisher Mandy Farrow. (Submitted photo)

the Barry County and Stone County communities."

The transition of ownership will not affect what readers have come to expect from both papers, according to Farrow.

# Westplex Media Group takes ownership of the Community News newspapers

## From the Community News

For the first time since 1921, a Huneke is not at the helm of the *Community News* newspapers, which serve St. Louis, St. Charles and Lincoln counties. Bob Huneke bought the newspaper from his father in the 1990s and sold it last month to Tim Schmidt, owner and operator of Westplex Media Group.

Westplex also operates the *Warren County Record*, *Montgomery Standard*, *Mexico Ledger* and *Moberly Monitor-Index*.

"I am thankful for what Bob and Donna have done," Schmidt said in the newspapers' announcement of the sale. "They have published a great newspaper and I appreciate that they have chosen me to be the next steward of the paper. I am glad they will be able to slow down, spend time together and enjoy retirement."



Tim Schmidt, left, has purchased the *Community News* newspapers from Bob Huneke. (Submitted photo)

The *Community News* currently publishes two editions, one for North County St. Louis and another dedicated to St. Charles County. Schmidt said immediate plans include launching a new website in early November.

Another adjustment readers will

notice is the inclusion of high school sports.

"I have always been a newspaper guy and I believe they have a longer shelf life than most," Schmidt said. "Change is on the horizon. The *Community News* has done a good job over the years, but like anything else, it needs a new perspective, a new twist."

Huneke said he has been looking for new ownership to take over the *Community News*. In recent years, his wife, Donna, has suffered from the late stages of Alzheimer's.

"I had pretty much given up on the idea but the stars aligned," Huneke said in the announcement. "It's a blessing. We are going to end up happy and OK."

Matthew DeKinder, who has been with *Community News* since 2014, will continue in his current capacity as publisher/editor-in-chief.



# OBITUARIES



Park Hills

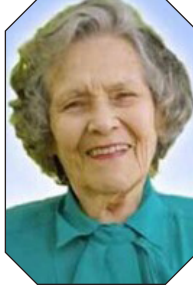
Louisburg, Kan.

## Pauline Wampler

Tresa Pauline Wampler, 92, died Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023, peacefully at home and surrounded by family.

In addition to other jobs, Wampler worked from 1973-2013 as a motor route driver for the *Daily Journal* newspaper, where she delivered thousands of newspapers to thousands of people, usually seven days a week. She continued in that role until she was 82, never missing a day of service.

Her five children, Sharon, Sheila, Wayne, Janet and Brenda survive her, as well as many other family and friends.



## Judith Miller

Judith Ann Miller, 84, died Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023, at Olathe Hospice House in Olathe, Kan., after suffering a stroke.

In 1981, she began delivering *The Kansas City Star*, which allowed her to be home with her children and care for her family. Paper delivery became a family affair, especially on Saturday nights when her daughters would help with the Sunday paper. After 35 years of delivering the newspaper, Miller finally retired in 2016.

She is survived by her husband, Rob, and three daughters, Sonya, Melanie and Kimberly; many grandchildren, other relatives and friends. She will also be missed by many of the neighborhood kids, several of whom she employed in delivering the newspaper during her time with *The Star*.



# ON THE MOVE



**Cape Girardeau** — Lucas Presson, assistant publisher at the *Southeast Missourian*, has added general manager responsibilities to his workload, including responsibility for the newspaper's day-to-day operations and the company's commercial printing operation.

Presson, who also serves on the Missouri Press Association Board of Directors, joined the *Missourian* in 2010, and past roles have included editorial page editor, assistant managing editor and general manager of the company's marketing agency, rustmedia.

Also at the *Missourian*, former advertising director Gera LeGrand will have a part-time role with the company. She joined the newspaper in 2004, serving as national advertising and major accounts manager, retail advertising manager and promotion specialist, among other roles.

Logan Clippard will take on the advertising manager role, previously serving as the newspaper's advertising sales manager from 2020, as well as being a sales coach.



Lucas Presson



Gera LeGrand



Logan Clippard



Katelyn Dickherber

She is also revenue and marketing adviser for the *Southeast Arrow*, the student-run publication of Southeast Missouri State University.

Katelyn Dickherber is the *Missourian's* new classified advertising and office manager, previously serving in a lead classified advertising role, as well as a recruitment specialist for the newspaper.

Both Dickherber and Clippard earned their undergraduate degrees from Southeast Missouri State University.

## Make sure political advertisements contain proper 'Paid for by' attribution

From Jean Maneke, Missouri Press Association's Legal Hotline attorney:

Be sure all political advertising that runs in your newspaper contains proper attribution as set out by the Missouri Ethics Commission. Your newspaper can be fined for not

properly attributing ads that you run.

State Rep. Doug Mann, D-Columbia, was recently fined \$500 for campaign ads he ran in the 2022 primary by failing to clarify who paid for the advertising.

Also, make sure the attribution

in an ad matches where the money comes from. In other words, the name on the check, or on the credit card, needs to match the attribution they have you put on the ad.

Check out [www.mec.mo.gov/](http://www.mec.mo.gov/) for more guidance.

# Member opinion: 'Information vacuum' follows death of newspapers

**By Andy Ostmeyer**

*From the Joplin Globe*

During National Newspaper Week (Oct. 1-7), we've been telling you about the consequences of newspapers closing. There's another, but it's not getting the same level of attention.

Newspapers are critical to helping us understand our history, locally and nationally.

There's a short film, "Thunder in the Ozarks," that begins and ends with the haunting journey of Asa Payne. Payne was still a boy in 1861 when he joined the Missouri State Guard during the Civil War. As an old man, he revisited the battlefields of his youth, and later wrote down his experiences of the battles of Carthage and Pea Ridge for his hometown newspaper, then called the *Carthage Evening Press*.

Payne's account, besides helping frame the film, is also cited a number of times in the most comprehensive histories of those battles, and it illustrates an important role newspapers play: They are not just the "first rough draft of history," they also are a primary source for historians putting together more polished drafts. In fact, the best book on these two battles cites dozens of newspapers from around the country in their bibliographies, everything from the *Cassville Democrat* to *The*



*New York Times*.

More than 2,000 papers have closed in the last 20 years — among them the *Carthage Press*, which died in 2018.

When newspapers go, so do all the stories they could otherwise tell (and in some cases, the old archives disappear as well.)

This spring, the journal "History Today" examined what the loss of newspapers may mean for historians writing tomorrow. One historian concluded that the loss of local newspaper will create an "information vacuum."

In our 127-year history, the *Globe* has been the primary source of information about everything from the shootout of Bonnie and Clyde in 1933 in south Joplin to the deadliest tornado in more than 75 years, in 2011, and so much more, before, after and in between. Another history book, "White Man's Heaven," about the lynching of Blacks in the late 1800s and early 1900s, relies heavily on newspaper accounts to tell the

story of those lynchings, including newspapers in Joplin and Springfield.

Those, of course, are national stories that can be rebuilt from other sources, but our more intimate community histories couldn't be reconstructed at all without the decades of steady coverage provided by local newspapers.

In that same "History Today" article, another historian concluded: "The loss of the physical newspaper is significant to the historian because of the local newspaper's physical legacy is that most often accessed by both professional and amateur historians. ... The loss of the printed local newspaper has robbed historians of many crucial opportunities to learn about their communities, the mechanisms of democracy and the changing character of any given locality."

We've been saying all week that healthy communities need healthy newspapers ... and a healthy understanding of local and U.S. history requires the same ... healthy newspapers.

*Andy Ostmeyer is editor of the Joplin Globe. This editorial appeared in the Oct. 6, 2023, issue of the Joplin Globe as part of the newspaper's coverage of National Newspaper Week.*

## Teach new staff fundamentals of journalism

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

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

to media laws are covered in the materials.

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

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

To get added to the Missouri Press group, send an email to [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com).





# Missouri Newspaper Organizations

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

**OZARK PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, Amanda Mendez, *Howell County News*, Willow Springs; Vice President, Jordan Troutman, *Cassville Democrat*; Secretary-Treasurer, Dan Wehmer, *Webster County Citizen*, Seymour; Past President, Ron Schott, *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove. Directors: Steve Pokin, *Springfield Daily Citizen*; Shelby Atkison, *Marshfield Mail*; Kimball Long, *El Dorado Springs Sun*; and Kyle Troutman, *Cassville Democrat*.

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

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

**MISSOURI PRESS ADVERTISING & MARKETING EXECUTIVES:**

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

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

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

**Director Emeritus:** Rogers Hewitt, Shelbyville.

**MISSOURI COLLEGE MEDIA ASSOCIATION:** President, Rachel Becker, University of Central Missouri; Vice President, Sydney Ellison, Truman State University; Secretary, Ellie Whitesell, University of Central Missouri; Adviser, Julie Lewis, University of Central Missouri; and MPA Liaison, Jack Dimond, Missouri State University.

# Where do you draw the line on speech?

**T**ruth and reality are tough words to define. They are tough concepts to understand.

I always stand on the side with all of you reporters in this state. I understand your struggles and I support your right to transparency both in the court system and in your local and state government. I want you to get the records you ask for and I want you to be able to attend court hearings and get copies of decisions by judges. That is my job.

There are times, I confess, that I have a hard time understanding what is going on in a particular situation. A journalist complains to me about being charged a sum of less than \$10 for copies of public documents, and then I realize some journalists are working for papers where funds are tight. The reporter may be using their personal lunch money to get the story.

That's when I understand the need for public records to be priced so any member of the public may access them.

I am similarly torn at times about access to court records. I know that the judges who control our state court system generally have the right attitude about the need for courts to function open and transparent to the public. The foundation of our judicial system rests on transparency and the belief that all who come before the courts will have equal access to justice.

Our Missouri Constitution, in Article I, Section 14, guarantees "That the courts of justice shall be open to every person, and certain remedy afforded for every injury to person, property or character, and that right and justice shall be administered without sale, denial or delay."

I truly believe our highest judges in the state believe in that truth and work every day to make the courts in this state "open to every person." But I know at the same time that instances such as recently happened, where a judge in Maryland was fatally shot in his driveway after ruling in a custody dispute in favor of the shooter's wife, and the situation in New Jersey where a judge's son was fatally shot, and her

husband severely wounded have struck fear in all judges wherever they live.

Information on where they reside and with whom now is stricken from almost all records in states. Our courthouses are secured and the public is highly screened before allowed to enter. "Open to every person" is now interpreted to mean "after they pass through security."

And, all of us realize those officers doing the screening may be the only thing standing between us as journalists observing and reporting on the trial and being involved as a victim in the next top news story about a shooting at the courthouse.

I work to ensure your access to court docket entries so you can do your jobs. But I struggle when you complain about finding access to information on Case.net no longer available to you. I know there are two sides to this argument – I hear them. I know what side I am here to support. But that's not the issue.

My point here is not who is right or wrong. Or what courts should do or not do. My point is about to head in a slightly different direction.

The recent news about the federal judge in New York who issued a gag order on Donald Trump in regard to his election subversion criminal case has created a mental struggle for First Amendment attorneys, I suspect. It has for me.

We all believe very strongly in the First Amendment. We also believe that the solution to bad speech is more speech, not a gag order on the speaker. In this case, the speaker is obviously running for President and candidates should be allowed to freely express

*"Does a court have a right to gag a defendant? Are there some kinds of speech that can rightfully be prohibited? Does the U.S. Constitution allow the government to create a law prohibiting certain kinds of speech?"*

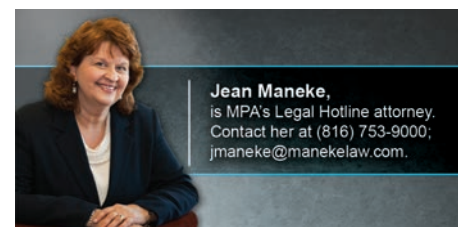
their thoughts about the state of this country and about what they believe should happen in political matters. In the case of former President Trump, his legal problems are entangled directly in his campaign and his beliefs about the state of affairs in the United States.

Does a court have a right to gag a defendant? Why

should he be prohibited from speaking about the potential witnesses, about the prosecutor's team and about the court personnel? Are there some kinds of speech that can rightfully be prohibited? Does the U.S. Constitution allow the government to create a law prohibiting certain kinds of speech?

Recently an interview of Justice Samuel Alito in the Wall Street Journal quoted him in terms of his position rejecting speech restrictions. He is noted as having a habit of posing scenarios that demonstrate clearly that such restrictions are not tenable. Freedom regarding core political speech, the article concludes, is strongly supported by Justice Alito.

Should we allow former President Trump the right to say whatever he wants? Where in this age of the Internet and competing speech from all directions is it appropriate to draw the line in the sand and say that stepping over that line is the "shouting fire in the crowded theater" scenario? Or does that line no longer exist?



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



# **Congratulations**

**to the winners of 2023's  
MPF Better Newspaper Contest  
and MPAME Best Ad Contest.**

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**Changes to how next year's contests will be conducted are coming, including a new template for entering both contests. Details for the new template and what you can expect when entering will be announced in the coming weeks.**

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**Meanwhile, you can begin preparing your entries now for the 2024 editorial and advertising contests!**

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- Put all your entries into a "Contest Entries" folder on your desktop.
- Combine entries that consist of more than one piece of content or more than one page. This makes uploading and judging much easier.

**Have questions? Please contact Matthew Barba at [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com) or Kristie Fortier at [kfortier@mopress.com](mailto:kfortier@mopress.com).**

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**You can help Missouri Press plan for the editorial contest.  
Email [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com) to be part of the Contest Committee.**

# 2023 MISSOURI PRESS TAILGATE

Missouri Press members and friends

**YOU ARE INVITED** to attend a

Missouri Press tailgate on

**November 18, 2023**

Tentatively planned for 3 hours prior to kickoff!

MPA will announce the actual time when  
kickoff is publicized.

**Location: Columbia Missourian**

**Lee Hills Hall**

**221 S. Eighth St., Columbia, MO 65201**

**MPA Will Provide: Mia Taco Food Truck**

**Meals | Yard Games | Fun and Friends!!!**



**RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/3cbps4yn>**