

MP

MISSOURI PRESS

NEWS

Mizzou ticket tradeout tailgate returns | P6



Missouri Press is using a new template for its editorial, ad contests | P4

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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

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



CALENDAR

2023
December

Return Your MPS Agreements ASAP!
25 — Missouri Press Offices Closed

2024
January

1 — Missouri Press Offices Closed
3 — State General Assembly Convenes for 2024 Session, Jefferson City
31 — MPAME Best Ad Contest Deadline

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.

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

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 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.

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



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, *Westplex Media*
Lucas Presson, *Southeast Missourian, Cape Girardeau*
Bryan Chester, *Columbia Missourian*

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

Congratulations to all who won in the Better Newspaper Contest!

*See page 4 to learn about changes coming
to the editorial and advertising contests.*



Staff members from Missouri's daily newspapers gather after being presented with the awards they won in the Missouri Press Foundation's 2023 Better Newspaper Contest. More than 2,100 entries were received for this year's contest

between weekly and daily newspaper entrants. Awards were presented by Missouri Press Association President-elect Amos Bridges during the 157th Annual Convention and Trade Show, held Sept. 21-23, in St. Louis. (Staff photos)



Staff from Missouri Press' weekly newspaper members assemble following the 2023 Better Newspaper Contest awards

luncheon in St. Louis. The awards presentation marked the culmination of the Association's 157th Annual Convention.

Editorial and ad contests using new template for '24

Best Ad Contest already open for entries.

From Missouri Press Staff

Missouri Press News

Each year dozens of Missouri Press Association member organizations enter the editorial and advertising contests with the hope their work will be recognized and awarded by their fellow journalism and marketing colleagues.

Beginning with the 2024 Better Newspaper Contest and Best Ad Contest, Missouri Press will replace the template newspapers use for uploading entries. The new template for both contests is operated by Illinois Press Association and used by many other newspaper organizations throughout the country.

Overall, the method for uploading your entries will not change much, according to Missouri Press' Member Services Director Kristie Fortier, but there are important things to remember as the transition to a new contest template takes place.

"The same basic rules still apply, such as combining entries into one file to make them easier for judges to view and providing login information for items behind a paywall, but we understand there will be an adjustment period for newspaper staffers who were used to the previous template," Fortier said.

Rules for the Best Ad Contest, which opened in November and runs through the end of January, and the Better Newspaper Contest, which will open in late January and go through early April, are slightly different. It is important to refer to the individual contest's rules for specific guidance.

If you have judged another state association's contest in the past, you might have some experience with IPA's Advanced Contest Entry System (ACES).

"Maybe the most important thing to start with this change is becoming familiar with the template as soon as it opens, or as soon as you're done reading this, in the case of the Best Ad Contest currently underway," Fortier



Winning tips for Missouri Press contests:

1. Gather your entries together in one folder on your computer, i.e. on your desktop
2. Name files with the relevant info from the entry, edition and date
3. Combine large entries or multiple pages into one file
4. Upload smaller files to the template, but for larger entries, use an outside hosting service
5. If you enter a URL into the template, it must be public or you need to provide login credentials
6. Refer to each individual contest's rules for specific guidance

said. "I think it would also be helpful for newspapers that only enter the editorial contest to get logged in during the ad contest so they can see how the template works.

"And who knows, if you enter some advertising entries in the Best Ad Contest template, you might win," Fortier added.

Your login information for the prior contest template will not be valid for the ACES template. Instead, you will create a new password when you register your newspaper with the website and begin submitting entries for each template.

By familiarizing yourself with the contest templates early, Fortier said a newspaper's staff can work through any issues they have with uploading their entries and get questions answered in a timely manner.

So why change the contest template? Fortier explained the cost of the previous system was increasing too much to not have to raise the price for newspapers entering each contest.

"One of the greatest joys we have as staff of Missouri Press Association is seeing members' work celebrated and awarded by their fellow newspaper people from all around the country," Fortier said. "Our editorial and advertising contests draw thousands of entries each year, so it is important that we continue to offer a way for our members to be recognized and respectful of the other rising costs they experience in operating their newspapers."

The Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives Best Ad Contest is now open and more information can be found on Page 5 of this month's *Missouri Press News*.

If you need more help or guidance with logging into the new contest template, or have questions about the upcoming Missouri Press Foundation Better Newspaper Contest, please reach out to Fortier at kfortier@mopress.com or Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com.

Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives

MPAME

2024

BEST AD CONTEST

Enter the 2024 MPAME Best Ad Contest and show everyone the great work you have done to drive revenue and maybe help others out in the process!

CONTEST INFORMATION

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

MPAME Best Ad contest has a new contest template this year. Please go to newspapercontest.com/mopress early to register your newspaper and setup a password, so you're prepared to ask any questions you may have for entering! For the most part, entering and the rules will be the same, but the contest template is different. We want to help you with anything you might have questions on.

Entries must have been published between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.

The contest is open to all staff members of publications holding an Active, Active Online, Friend of, or Specialty Publication membership in Missouri Press Association.

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

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

Note: For large files, you may use an outside file hosting site and submit the URL. **You MUST make sure the file is public, or otherwise shareable and/or that a password is provided, so it can be viewed, printed or downloaded for judging and/or display purposes. Submit smaller files as PDFs within the template.**

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

ENTER ONLINE AT: newspapercontest.com/mopress

Find: 2024 Missouri Best Ad Contest | Deadline Jan. 30, 2024

Association Code: MOPRESS

If you have any questions OR feel your newspaper is in the wrong class, please contact Kristie Fortier at kfortier@mopress.com or call 573.449.4167

AWARDS & MEETING INFORMATION

Make plans now to attend the Missouri Press Advertising and Marketing Executives meeting being held on April 18-19, 2024.

Winners will be recognized, and awards presented **Thursday, April 20, 2023**

Event Registration form will be available in January of 2024, at www.mopress.com under **EVENTS**.

Dozens attend Missouri Press' tailgate at Columbia Missourian

From Missouri Press Staff

A Nov. 18 win against the Florida Gators improved the Mizzou Tigers record to 9-2, but Missouri Press scored its own win with a downtown tailgate before the game.

More than 100 people were registered for the tailgate, held in conjunction with the Mizzou Tigers game against Florida for which 72 member newspapers traded advertising for tickets.

Nearly 1,000 tickets were included in this year's tradeout, the 32nd year for the agreement between University of Missouri Athletics and Missouri newspapers.

Attendees of the tailgate were provided drinks, yard games and tacos from Mia Taco Truck in Columbia.

In a sold out Faurot Field (capacity 61,620), the game against Florida proved to be a nail biter. Mizzou's 33-31 win came down to the final seconds and the ability of kicker Harrison Mevis to nail a 30-yard field goal.

Missouri Press thanks all the newspapers that participated in this year's ticket tradeout. We also enjoyed seeing everyone who was able to come by the *Columbia Missourian* building in downtown Columbia before the game.

On the cover

Attendees from around Missouri came to Columbia to participate in Missouri Press Association's Mizzou ticket tradeout tailgate. A special thank you to Peggy Scott with Leader Publications, who provided a beautifully composed shot by Harold Walton with the final score between the Mizzou Tigers and the Florida Gators. Watch Missouri Press emails for information about future tradeout opportunities and MPA events.



Dozens of Missouri Press members and friends attended the Nov. 18, tailgate in downtown Columbia. Afterwards, the Mizzou Tigers beat the Florida Gators in a down-to-wire performance, with a final score of 33-31. (Staff photos)



Remember, your voice is needed to protect newspapers in Missouri

From Missouri Press Staff

The Missouri General Assembly is scheduled to convene for the 2024 legislative session on Wednesday, Jan. 3. Issues important to Missouri newspapers are again expected to be at the forefront of discussions.

While a date has not yet been scheduled as of press time, Missouri Press Association member newspapers are asked to make plans to attend Day at the Capitol in Jefferson City. This annual event, which has historically included lunch at the Governor's Mansion, is usually held early in the legislative session, typically in late January.

Day at the Capitol gives MPA members a chance to meet with their legislators in the Capitol building to discuss issues important to Missouri newspapers. Drawing members from around the state, newspapers have the opportunity to show a united front when discussing proposed legislation that could affect everything from public notices to open records.

Day at the Capitol is free for all of the Association's members to attend, so we just need you to meet your industry colleagues in Jefferson City. Due to weather and other factors, the event can be postponed, but



A group of Missouri newspaper industry representatives traveled to Washington, D.C. in late September to meet with members of the state's Congressional delegation and advocate for issues important to press freedoms. The trip was in conjunction with the National Newspaper Association Foundation's Annual Convention and Trade Show. Pictured, from left, are Lisa Dresner, Missouri Press Association Executive Director Mark Maassen, Trevor Vernon of Vernon Publishing, Michael Rhineberger, Kayla Rhineberger, Katelyn Mary Skaggs, Peggy Scott with Leader Publications, Congressman Jason Smith, MO-8, MPA NNA Representative Hannah Spaar and Rob Scott. (Submitted photo)

Missouri Press will give members as much warning ahead of any necessary changes to the schedule.

Association members may also sometimes be asked to volunteer to come to Jefferson City during the legislative session to provide testimony at committee hearings. Please be on the lookout for these requests and respond when you're able.

MPA will continue to distribute information about national

legislation important to newspapers, so please be on the lookout for calls to action that could include contacting Missouri's Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

If you have questions about proposed legislation or need advice on talking with your legislators, either at the state or national level, please contact MPA Executive Director Mark Maassen at (573) 449-4167, ext. 308, or at mmaassen@mopress.com.

Capitol reporting brings state news to your readers

From Missouri Press Staff

Two services available to Missouri Press Association members can help ensure readers are better informed about what's going on in Jefferson City and throughout the state.

Each legislative session the Missouri School of Journalism sends reporters to Jefferson City for the State Government Reporting Project.

A weekly recap of the stories produced by reporters in the Capitol is distributed to MPA members during the legislative session by Missouri Press staff. This "Capitol Report" is available to all MPA members for republishing.

Stories of particular note are sometimes distributed separately to allow members to use them more quickly.

Newspapers wanting a more localized approach to statehouse reporting are encouraged to contact Mark Horvit

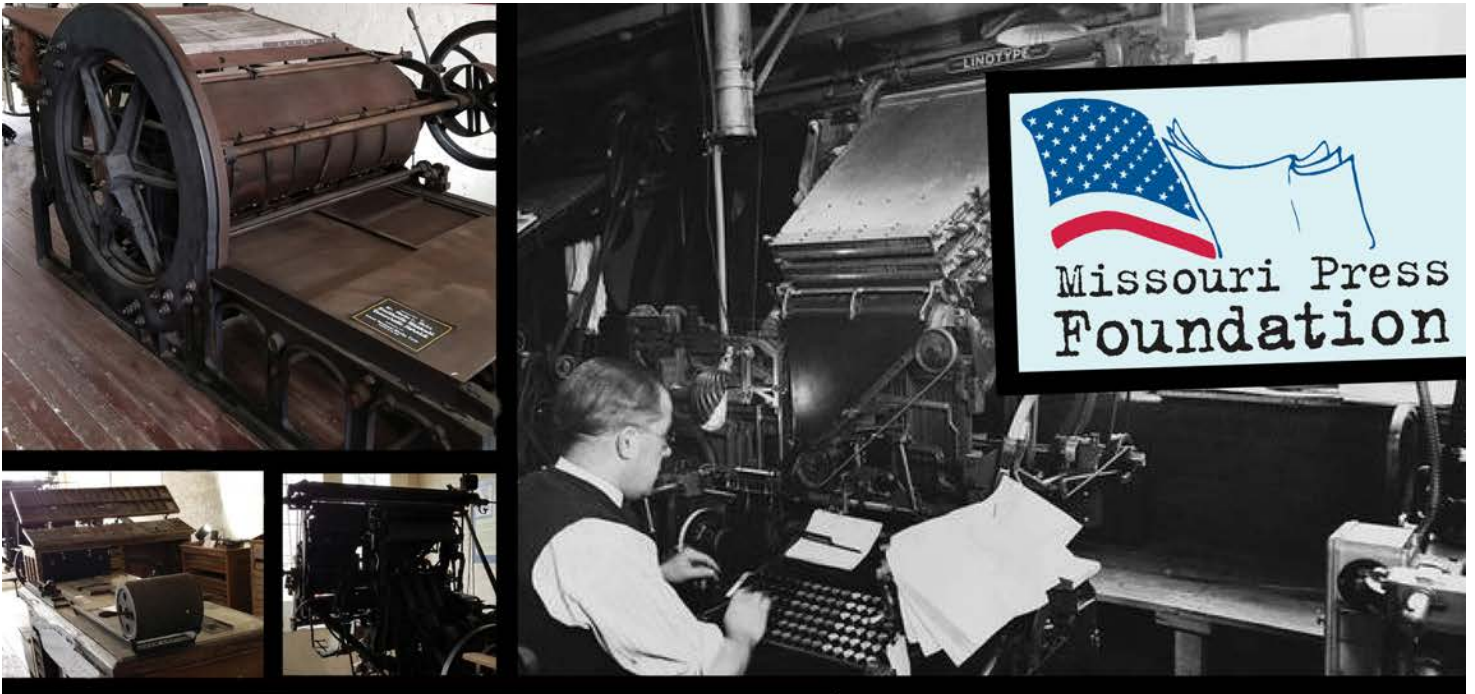
with story ideas or requests for comment from legislators in response to specific legislation or state policy. Horvit can be reached by email at horvitm@missouri.edu.

Want the Capitol Report? Email mbarba@mopress.com.

Missouri Independent

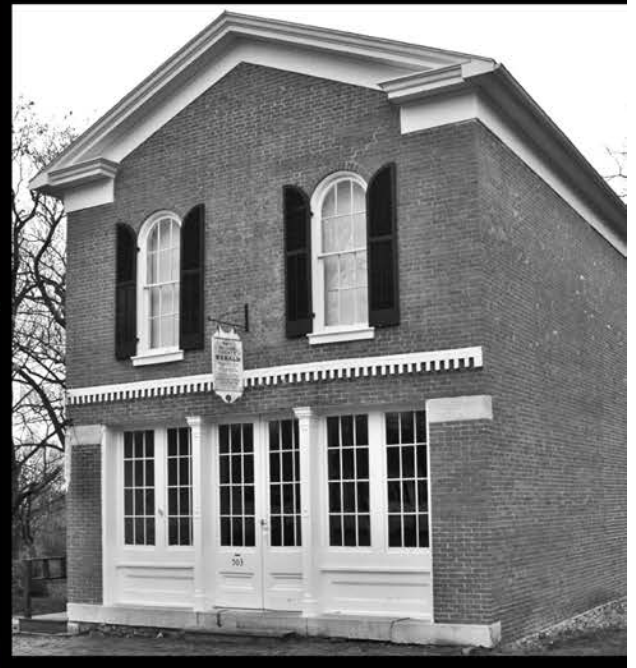
The Missouri Independent is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization covering state government, politics and policy. It is staffed by veteran Missouri reporters and dedicated to investigative journalism that sheds light on decisions in Jefferson City and the impact across the state.

Missouri Independent's work is free for other news outlets to republish. Requirements for republishing include only editing for style or to shorten a story's length, provide proper attribution and a link to the Missouri Independent website, <https://missouriindependent.com>.



BRING THE ARROW ROCK PRINT MUSEUM BACK TO LIFE

We have a rare opportunity at the Missouri Press Foundation to turn back time and return the historical presses at Arrow Rock back to full working order, but we need your help to be able to recreate the magical days of print for future generations. Donors to the Foundation have put up \$7,500 and are asking you this holiday season to match their donations to raise \$7,500 more for a total of \$15,000 to return these antique artifacts back to their glory days.



Mail a gift to Missouri Press Foundation:

802 Locust Street Columbia, MO 65201

Or visit our website with this QR code





Jefferson City

Marjorie Blosser

Marjorie Claire Ferguson Blosser, 98, of Jefferson City, died Oct. 25, 2023, at Heisinger Bluffs. She was married for 64 years to the late Robert Blosser, who served as president of Missouri Press Association in 1976.

Her first job was as a bookkeeper for KWOS Radio Station, located in the *Jefferson City News Tribune* building, where she met her future husband, Robert, who worked for the newspaper. After leaving the radio station, she was a secretary for the



Missouri Department of Education. A community volunteer, she spent many years helping with all kinds of activities through Jefferson City, including being a Girl Scout and Boy Scout leader, delivering Meals on Wheels, acting as a poll worker and holding membership in numerous clubs and civic organizations. She is survived by her three children, John, Jim and Marty; seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; and many more family and friends.

Cassville

Bob Mitchell

Longtime *Cassville Democrat* editor and publisher Bob Mitchell, 94, died Nov. 7, 2023, at Kansas City Hospice House.

Mitchell was a U.S. Navy veteran, enlisting prior to the start of the Korean War and attending Great Lakes Naval Training Center Journalism School. Assigned to work public affairs, he accompanied high-ranking officers to news conferences and covered the rescue of the USS *Missouri* when the ship went aground off the coast of Virginia.

He was later stationed in Key West, Fla., where President Harry S. Truman vacationed at the "Little White House." During press conferences, President Truman would often mention in reference to Mitchell that "it was good to have someone from the 'Show Me State' in the room."

Later stations over his nearly four years in the Navy included Japan and Korea.

Assignments from Korea included



reports on a captured Russian MiG fighter jet and witnessing a portion of the long-running negotiations that took place at the United Nations camp in Mun Son Ni.

In 1953, he left the Navy and returned to Cassville. As his hometown's newspaper editor, he was known for covering "Barry County like the morning dew." Bob and his late wife Sue sold the newspaper in 1996, but he continued to write a column until 2022.

In 2017, Mitchell was inducted into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame and the Missouri Southern State University Media Hall of Fame.

He was involved in numerous local organizations, as well, including leading Cassville Industrial Development Corporation, which was responsible for bringing several large employers to the area.

He is survived by a son, Bruce, and a daughter, Shelley; many grandchildren and other family; and a plethora of community friends and colleagues.

Kansas City

Helen Gray

Helen T. Gray, 81, a trailblazing journalist in Kansas City died Nov. 11, 2023, following an illness.

Gray was hired by The Kansas City Star in 1965, the newspaper's second Black reporter and its first Black female reporter. In 1971, she was named the religion editor, which she held until retirement in early 2013.

During her career, Gray covered the local civil rights struggle and interviewed Martin Luther King Jr., who spent a short layover in Kansas City, as the only female reporter among the gaggle of photographers and broadcast journalists surrounding King at the airport. She would later cover the riots in the city following King's assassination.

The recipient of numerous industry accolades, Gray was also honored in 1997 with the Kansas City Association of Black Journalists' first lifetime achievement award. Praised by many for her grace and kindness, Gray taught Sunday School for more than 40 years before declining health forced her to quit.

She is survived by a son, David; four grandchildren; and many more family and friends from throughout all of her roles within the community.



**Missouri Press News
needs your help to
remember our
industry colleagues
who have passed.
Send obits to
mbarba@
mopress.com.**

Ozark Press Association travels to Mountain Grove

From Ron Schott

Past President of Ozark Press

The Ozark Press Association met for its annual conference Oct. 19, in Mountain Grove. Around 35-40 newspaper professionals attended the event.

The agenda included presentations on newspaper design, sports coverage, and Case.net & PACER by Missouri Press Hotline Attorney Jean Maneke and Jackie Rehwald of the Springfield Daily Citizen.

Missouri Press Association Executive Director Mark Maasen provided a list of things on the radar at the state level along with a report on MPA items of interest.

The afternoon included a moderated forum featuring newspaper owners providing valuable insight into newspaper ownership.

Associate Professor Elizabeth Stephens, from the University of Missouri, spent the day with us and talked about partnership opportunities for Missouri School of Journalism students and rural newspapers. Stephens is also the executive editor for the *Columbia Missourian*, and it was simply awesome to have someone from the Missouri School of Journalism with us for the day.

Some newspaper promotion ideas were then shared among attendees, and fortunately, Dan Wehmer, owner/publisher of the *Webster County Citizen*, Seymour, did not hit the gong on any of our ideas.

Finally, my one year term as Ozark Press Association president came to an end. I officially presented the gavel to Amanda Mendez, owner/publisher of the *Howell County News*, Willow Springs, elected to fill the position in 2024.

It can be tiring and exhausting at times executing an event like this, fortunately, I had a good OPA team. I was also blessed with the help of Krystle Robertson and Barb Moore who set up, dispensed concessions and helped tear down after the meeting.

Additionally, I'm thankful for the time my wife, Kristy,



Amanda Mendez, publisher of the *Howell County News* in Willow Springs, takes the president's gavel from Ron Schott, publisher of the *Wright County Journal* in Mountain Grove during Ozark Press Association's annual conference in October. Joining Mendez at the meeting was her daughter, Geraldine Felicity Mendez, who was just 5-weeks-old at the time. (Submitted photo)

spent on taking our decorations to another level.

Handouts from the newspaper design and sports coverage presentations are available on MPA's website, www.mopress.com.



Retired newspaper publishers Gary and Helen Sosniecki, and Shelby Atkinson, editor of the *Marshfield Mail*, snap a pic during Ozark Press' October conference.



Ron Schott, who held the president's gavel during this year's Ozark Press Association conference, provides opening remarks and lays out the day's agenda. (Staff photos)



Norene Prososki of *Ozark County Times*, Gainesville, speaks during an owners' panel held at Ozark Press conference in October. Prososki and the other panelists talked about the benefits and difficulties that come with newspaper ownership. Panelists included, from left, Dan Wehmer, *Webster County Citizen*, Prososki, Amanda Mendez, *Howell County News*, Willow Springs; Ron Schott, *Wright County Journal*; and Kyle Troutman, *Cassville Democrat*.

Northwest Missouri Press Association meets again, elects new officers

From Skye Pournazari

Secretary of Northwest Press

Northwest Missouri Press Association held its first meeting in more than three years last month, electing new officers and getting back into a collaborative mindset.

Kathy Conger with the *Bethany Republican-Clipper* gave a brief history of the organization and information about the awards and scholarships it has available, before the group reorganized and elected new leadership.

"It's time to reinvent this dude," Conger said. "COVID changed everything."

Newly elected officers for 2023-24 include: President, Ken Garner, *The Maryville Forum/Grant City Times-Tribune*; Vice President, Brent Rosenauer, *The Savannah Reporter*; Treasurer, W.C. Farmer, *The Atchison County Mail*; and Secretary, Kathy Conger and Skye Pournazari, *The Forum/Times-Tribune*, who will be shifting into the position over the next year following Conger's long tenure in the role.

During the meeting, the agenda included Missouri Press Association



Officers for Northwest Missouri Press Association include, from left treasurer, W.C. Farmer, *The Atchison County Mail*; co-secretaries, Kathy Conger, *Bethany Republican-Clipper* and Skye Pournazari, *The Maryville Forum/Grant City Times-Tribune*; vice president, Brent Rosenauer, *The Savannah Reporter*; and president, Ken Garner, *The Forum/Times-Tribune*. (Submitted photos)

Executive Director Mark Maassen providing a legislative update and information from the Association.

Garner led roundtable discussion on several topics: Combatting "I saw it on Facebook," opinion pages as the lifeblood of newspapers, retaining subscribers, e-Editions and delivery issues.

W.C. Farmer, with the *Atchison*

County Mail, provided a fiscal update on the groups general and scholarship accounts.

The group ended its meeting with the traditional toast to former Northwest Press secretary Lucy Jones and the field of Journalism. The group will endeavor in the coming months to set its annual meeting for next year.



Kathy Conger talks about the history of Northwest Missouri Press Association during the group's first meeting in more than three years. Attendees gathered in late October and are already discussing plans for a 2024 meeting.



Attendees listen during presentations at the Northwest Missouri Press Association's first meeting in more than three years. The group met in October in Maryville to reorganize and elect new officers.

Resources to get your story started

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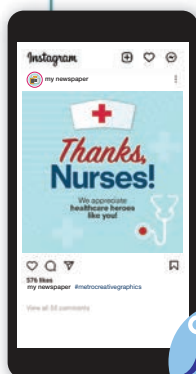
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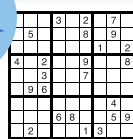
“ I didn't know you had this! ”



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MMI THE MOBERLY MONITOR-INDEX

Moberly — CherryRoad Media acquired the *Moberly Monitor-Index* at the beginning of November, purchasing it from Westplex Media Group. CherryRoad operates more than 80 newspapers in 18 states, including eight in Missouri.

The *Monitor-Index* has been the newspaper of record for Moberly and Randolph County since its founding in 1869. CherryRoad Media said the *Monitor-Index* aligns with the mission it has carried out over the last three years, which is to focus on hyper-local journalism and community involvement.

“We are excited to be the new owners of the *Moberly Monitor-Index*,” said Jeremy Gulban, CEO of CherryRoad Media. “Moberly and Randolph County have such a rich history, which this newspaper has been a part of. We look forward to continuing the legacy established by the previous owners.”



In this 2017 photo, a Joplin resident shows preserved copies of the *Joplin Uplift* newspaper, which were used to prepare a Black History Month exhibit for the city. (Submitted/The Joplin Globe, Roger Nomer)

Joplin — Three historic Black-owned newspapers that served Joplin were inducted into Missouri Southern State University’s Regional Media Hall of Fame last month. The most well-known of the newspapers, the *Joplin Uplift*, was published by Augustus and Fannie Tutt from 1926 until the early 1930s.

The *Uplift* derived its name from the “Uplift Movement” that happened in the 1920s, which was the idea that through education, communication and political involvement Black people could be empowered. The weekly newspaper was expanded to cover Springfield and Coffeyville, Kan.

Also inducted were two newspapers that preceded the *Uplift*, the *Joplin Advance*, established in 1985, and the *Afro-American Leader*, started in 1917.



The Jefferson City News Tribune building has been sold. WEHCO Newspapers, which operates the News Tribune, said the company’s operations will not be affected beyond finding a new office location for staff. (Submitted/Jefferson City News Tribune)

Jefferson City — The Jefferson City News Tribune will be moving offices after it was announced WEHCO Newspapers had sold the newspaper’s building to Jefferson City, effective at the end of November. Plans for the site include demolishing the building and replacing it with a parking structure.

Mark Lane, president of WEHCO Newspapers, said the company will not downsize or reduce its operations, and the company’s printing plant will be unaffected by the sale. News Tribune editorial, advertising, classified and distribution departments are expected to operate out of the newspaper’s offices until spring 2024.

Located at 210 Monroe Street, a few blocks from the Missouri State Capitol, the 33,539-square-foot building was built in 1931. A number of maintenance issues with the building and the costs of repairs were cited as motivating factors for the sale.

KIRKSVILLE Daily Express

Kirksville — Citing increasing postal, fuel and delivery expenses, the *Kirksville Daily Express* told readers it was forced to discontinue its Saturday publication in November. The *Express* will continue to deliver a printed edition every Wednesday.

“Our commitment to local news and sports has not changed,” Publisher Jim Hart told readers. “Your Wednesday newspaper will still have many of the features you have enjoyed in the Saturday edition, and we will be updating our website and daily newsletter to keep you informed. We have become more than a printed newspaper, with our vibrant digital presence.”

Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship applications open

From Missouri Press Staff

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

The deadline to apply for the 2024-25 academic year is Jan. 31, 2024. Qualification for need is determined through the federal FAFSA program. Students will also receive an additional \$5,000 summer fellowship funded by the Reynolds Journalism Institute (RJI) and can apply for \$1,200 from RJI's Potter Digital Ambassador program.

An application for the scholarship is available on Missouri Press' website, www.mopress.com.

Partnering together, the Missouri Press Foundation (MPF) and the

Missouri School of Journalism want to attract Missouri high school graduates to the School of Journalism with the goals of preparing them to take leadership roles at rural Missouri newspapers and helping those students finance college degrees in journalism.

Four students have received the scholarship since its inception.

Brian Brooks, MPF president and professor emeritus at the Missouri School of Journalism, said the Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship will give small newspapers around the state a leg up when recruiting new hires.

"Every year, rural newspapers around the state struggle with finding journalism-trained staff who can provide the kind of coverage that is critical whether your community is 500 or 5,000 people," Brooks said. "We believe a lot of up-and-coming journalists have the potential to fall in

love with rural newspaper journalism.

This scholarship will get more well-trained students into newsrooms and help alleviate the anxiety that comes with paying for school and securing post-graduation employment."

Students chosen for the program must pursue a degree in journalism or strategic communication and must take at least one advertising course and one marketing course. Scholarship recipients will

be asked to spend a summer working at a rural Missouri newspaper (minimum of 10 weeks) through RJI's summer fellowship program, which includes a stipend of \$5,000.

An application for the Rural Missouri Newspaper Scholarship can be found online at <https://bit.ly/3fOn2e3>.

Please contact MPF Director Michael Harper with any questions at (573) 449-4167, ext. 303, or mharper@mopress.com.



Past presidents meet in Camdenton



Missouri Press Association's past presidents met Thursday, Nov. 2, at Old Kinderhook in Camdenton for the annual Past Presidents and Spouses Dinner. The dinner was hosted by 2017 MPA President Jeff Schrag and wife Mary. Those attending included Mark Maassen, 2013; Donald Warden,

1993; Phil Conger, 2012; Dennis Warden, 2016; John Spaar, 2005; Kevin Jones, 2010; Schrag, Gary Sosniecki, 2004; Dave Berry, 2003; Joe May, 2011; Jim Robertson, 2015; Former MPA Executive Director Doug Crews; and Dalton Wright, 1986. (Staff photo/Kristie Fortier)

ON THE MOVE



Crane — AJ Fahr has been named the new managing editor of the *Stone County Republican/Crane Chronicle*. Fahr will continue to cover Stone County events and news for the *Branson Tri-Lakes News*, which recently purchased the *Republican/Chronicle* and the *Barry County Advertiser* in Cassville.

Fahr previously worked for the Branson newspaper for more than two years, during which time Publisher Mandy Farrow said Fahr has been integral to the success of the newsroom. "I know she will continue to thrive covering Stone County, and I believe she is ready for this next step. I am so proud of her and look forward to seeing her shine in her new role."

With family that has been in the Branson area for centuries, Fahr said she is excited to expand her role within the community. "I am excited to be able to take the knowledge I have learned in the last few years under the

mentorship of Mandy and *Branson Tri-Lakes News* Editor Tim Church. I am ready to step into a leading role for an area I hold close to my heart. I feel confident I will be able to successfully bring the news to the readers of Stone County and continue the tradition of this paper."

Owensville — The *Gasconade County Republican* has expanded its coverage area to become a county-wide newspaper. Previously, the newspaper had focused on the communities of Owensville and Rosebud and Gerald in neighboring Franklin County.

To meet the needs of expanded coverage, the *Republican* has added two new staffers to its ranks, including Gunnar Krull and Josh Dodorico to cover the Hermann area.

Krull, a native of Hermann, wrote previously for the *Hermann Advertiser-Courier*. He told readers, "I love writing. I love being a newspaper man. Having done some news stuff at *The Lake Sun* for a year and the *Eldon Advertiser*, I know sports is really where I found my

passion."

Dodorico has lived in the Hermann area for more than 10 years and is a former millwright. He will assist local businesses with their advertising needs.

"I am personally excited about partaking in this new career because it allows me to fulfill a passion in fulfilling other people's needs," Dodorico said in announcing his new role. "I have a lot of empathy in my character. In this, I am finding a way to show my caring side and be able to look ahead for the year, see where the customer can make their advertising dollar stretch the farthest."

Continuing with the newspaper as a staff writer will be Buck Collier, who will cover city and county government and other news. Collier has been in the newspaper industry for nearly 50 years, including previous reporting stints with the *Advertiser-Courier*, the *New Haven Leader*, *Daily American Republic* in Poplar Bluff, among others, as well as serving as managing editor of six of the former Suburban Journals and as editor of the *Daily Statesman* in Dexter.

Three newspapers win awards at NNA

From Missouri Press Staff

National Newspaper Association Foundation held its annual Convention and Trade Show in late September in Washington, D.C., during which winners of the NNA's Better Newspaper Editorial and Advertising contests.

Ron Schott, publisher of the *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove, won awards in both the editorial and advertising contests, including a first place win for Best Sports Photo for a shot of a high school basketball player "flying" through the air during a game.

Schott also receiving honorable mentions in the Best Feature Photo and Best Sports Section or Page categories.

On the advertising side, Schott won four awards,

including second place for Best Classified Section and three third places for Best Multiple Advertiser Section, Best Public Notice Section and Best Small-Page Ad.

Kim Robertson with the *Jefferson County Leader* won first place for Best Serious Column. Robertson's winning entry was an appeal for voters to get better educated about candidates and replace an incumbent judge with a challenger better qualified for the role.

Tammy Witherspoon with *The Advertiser* in Eldon took first and second place in the NIE Educational Support and Civic Literacy category. Winning entries included a project on veterans and another on Democracy Day, during which government officials talk with and answer questions from local elementary school students.

**Send YOUR newspaper's news and moves to
mbarba@mopress.com.**

Local newspaper importance represented by high school student

By Elizabeth Barnt

From the Excelsior Springs Standard

Eighteen-year-old Austin Martin is an Excelsior Springs High School senior who recently made posters to celebrate the importance of local news outlets. He shared his thoughts on the representation of local news reporting.

Martin explained that each poster displays different aspects of local newspapers, such as those that move away from home and utilize the paper as a way to stay connected, as well as the other people represented in a community.

"I feel like local newspapers are so important because they hone everything down to where you are instead of everything else going on around you," he said. "Me, watching bigger news media broadcasts, I tend to get more overwhelmed with information from other countries."

He noted local news can make people feel more at home, such as catching up on local football games, and can relax the anxiety some people experience with bigger things occurring in the world around them.

Martin also portrayed that local news is essential in his posters depicting people cleaning up, supporting their community, and showcasing those who want to make changes while displaying an excellent positive outlook because he believes local news encourages people to come together.



In a separate poster, the depiction portrays an older gentleman reading a local newspaper while he is in a big city. Martin said even if someone is away from home, they can still get a sense of home from reading local news.

Martin included diversity in his designs. He firmly believes that the media should represent different people from different backgrounds and ethnicities and feels that the media doesn't always include those that should be described. He wants people in all communities to be present because everyone within the region should be able to have a voice.

"That's my calling," Martin said. "Whenever it comes to illustrations, I feel like not all of the people I represent in my art are people who are represented in media."

He believes if a situation pertains to other demographics, they should be included not just in local news but also within more prominent news outlets, and it is something the younger generation needs to be aware of in the future.

Although Martin claimed he doesn't read the local paper every week, he said his grandfather does, and he will walk by him to catch a glimpse of what's going on in Excelsior Springs, which allows him to keep up with his high school football team.

In the future, Martin would like to get involved locally, utilizing his skill to design local business graphics and share his artwork with others.

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 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.



Missouri Newspaper Organizations

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

OZARK PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, 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, , Ken Garner, *The Maryville Forum/Grant City Times-Tribune*; Vice President, Brent Rosenauer, *The Savannah Reporter*; Secretary, Kathy Conger, Bethany Republican-Clipper, and Skye Pournazari, *The Maryville Forum/Grant City Times-Tribune*; Treasurer, W.C. Farmer, *The Atchison County Mail*, Rock Port.

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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.

The permanency of paper public records

Just before Thanksgiving, the Eastern District Court of Appeals for Missouri issued a new Sunshine Law opinion that clarified an important issue for those who seek public records – if a record no longer exists in paper form, does that mean a public body can claim it has no need to “recreate” it when a request comes in.

Without a doubt this decision benefits from, and rests upon, the fact that so many records today are generated by and retained in computer data format. Very few records today are generated only on paper. And that’s the beauty of this decision.

A St. Louis resident sought certain records related to law enforcement traffic stops which are required by state statute (Section 590.650, R.S.Mo.) to be created and reported to the Missouri Attorney General’s office, in its effort to review and assess if law enforcement offices are overly focused on race in terms of stops made by its officers.

In this case, both St. Louis County and Webster Groves were reporting this data to the Regional Justice Information Services Commission (REJIS). REJIS retained this data for a two-year period for St. Louis County and could generate those reports for the resident. Those reports were generated and produced on behalf of St. Louis County.

Webster Groves, however, was in the practice of receiving monthly reports of its data from REJIS in paper form, and then it did not retain those reports on an ongoing basis. (However, that didn’t mean REJIS didn’t retain the data contained in the reports in its data system.)

But Webster Groves told the citizen that because it didn’t have the paper report copies, it was not obligated to produce the information in response to a Sunshine request. This would require it to “create a record not presently in existence,” the City claimed, citing a case from 2005 where the Western District Court of Appeals in the state had held that a public body is not required to generate a new report derived from raw data held by a public body that it

does not generally create.

But that argument ignored the fact that the Sunshine Law provides that a public body retains control over data turned over to a third party under an agreement with that third party. Specifically, the Court pointed out that a public body is required by provisions in the Sunshine Law to “retain” a record

prepared for it by a professional service at its request. Therefore, the Court said, this is not “creating a wholly new, custom report not typically prepared.”

But, at the same time, the majority opinion said that just because REJIS might have in its database the information as to the police officer’s identification number did not mean the report it generated had to include that information, because it was not required to be reported under Section 590.650, cited above.

This was exactly the holding the Court had earlier issued under another case decided in 2005 by the Eastern District appellate court where it said that not everything contained in a police incident report had to be made public because the statute defining such a report limited it to “date, time, place, name of victim and immediate facts and circumstances” of the incident and did not state that the victim’s address was part of that public report.

That was the majority opinion issued by the Court. But don’t stop there. There’s a very interesting dissent included with this opinion that will catch your eye. Judge Thomas C. Albus, writing alone in this dissent, notes that the data collected by REJIS is data provided by the public body and that the report REJIS generates for Webster

“Webster Groves told the citizen that because it didn’t have the paper report copies, it was not obligated to produce the information in response to a Sunshine request.”

Groves admittedly does include individual officer identification numbers, so if the requester were getting the report he requested, the report Webster Groves receives each month from REJIS, he would be receiving that information.

One critical factor in this dissenting judge’s analysis of the case was that the requester here sought “raw data”

and that data was in fact available within the database from which the information was sought. But the court noted that the requester asked only for data kept according to Section 590.650. Did that mean that he couldn’t have the additional information that was in the data base?

Because officer identification numbers were tracked so trends in law enforcement stops could be analyzed on a racial basis, and because Section 610.010 includes as a “public record” any record retained by a public body, this dissenting judge believes the language in Section 610.010 overrides Section 590.650.

This is not necessarily the “last stop” for this case. It is conceivable the Missouri Supreme Court will find it coming for consideration. This is a case to watch-more may come! But it’s exciting to know that there’s a holding that a public body cannot necessarily destroy public access by simply destroying a paper record.



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2024 Newspapers in Education Series Available in January

The Missouri Press Foundation and National Newspaper Association Foundation are offering a new original free series to newspapers across the country for publication.

This year, readers will enjoy 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. Dr. Linda Maxine Godwin wrote the features with science slants. She is an American scientist and retired NASA astronaut.

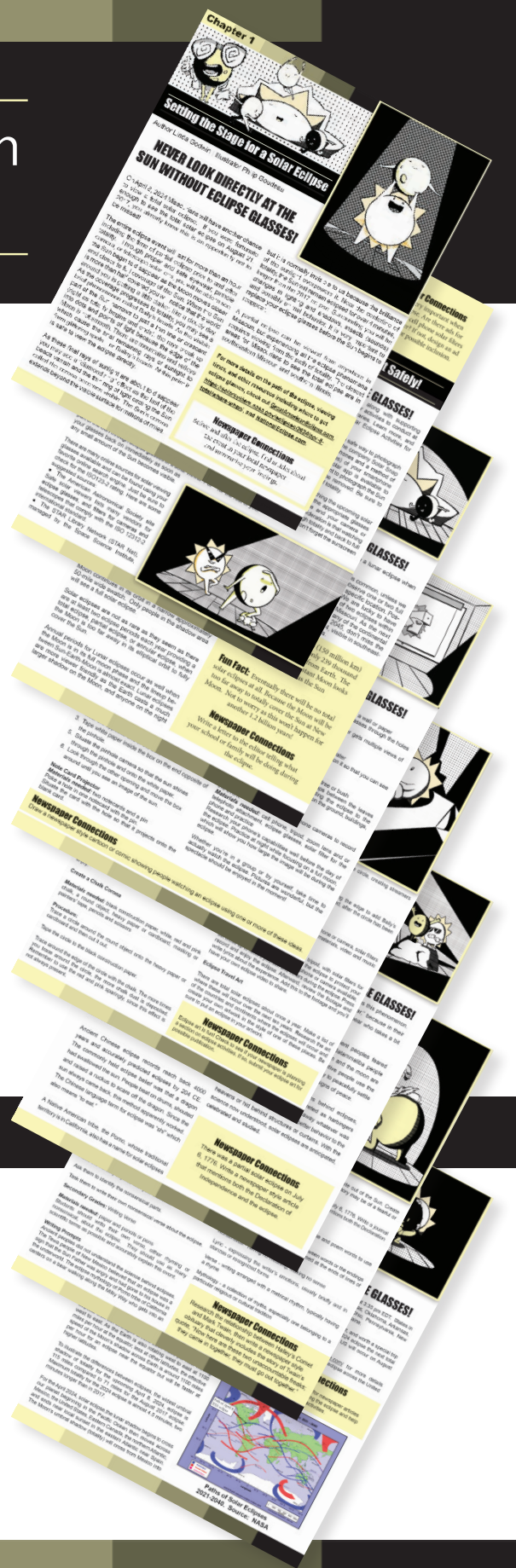
Godwin joined NASA in 1980 and became an astronaut in July 1986. She retired in 2010. During her career, Godwin completed four space flights and logged more than 38 days in space. Dr. Godwin is a Professor Emeritus at the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Missouri. The series is illustrated by Philip Goudeau. This series will be offered free of charge to newspapers for publication on January 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2024. **Visit mo-nie.com and use the code: **eclipse24** to download the entire series.**

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Make travel plans for the 158th MPA Convention in Springfield

