



MPA Hotline Attorney's Update on MSHP Traffic Crash Policy Change

On November 1, 2024, the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) removed names from its online preliminary traffic crash reports. MSHP said the change was due to a scam in play using information from its online reports.

In MSHP's estimation, given developments in social media technology, the benefits of providing the information online no longer outweighed the risks to the people named.

Now, everyone must submit formal requests for the information. And wait.

I have heard from many of you, and I know the disruption this is causing to newsgathering. Your Press Association is working on the problem and is reaching out to MSHP, as are other organizations.

These names have been available online for as long as I can remember, more than a decade at least. The scam MSHP is concerned about – contacting crash victims, pretending to be a trooper, and demanding payment – is no doubt a problem. But it does not seem to be a “new” kind of scam or require any cutting-edge technology to pull off. It seems like the ordinary kind of scam that has been around forever.

The names and these incident/crash reports are open records under the Sunshine Law. There are two sections of the Sunshine Law, RSMo 610.100.2 (1) and 610.200, that touch on this. Even MSHP, in its press release, acknowledges that these preliminary accident reports are subject to the Sunshine Law.

A different part of the Sunshine Law, Section 610.029, states essentially that agencies should make information available online.

MSHP's previous practice satisfied all of these provisions – it made

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preliminary crash reports open and made them available online. As a result, the press had the ability to quickly report on life-and-death events, find patterns in the data, and even inform the public about the steady work of the agency.

Human beings want to know where the dangers lurk. If it's a particular bend in the road, we want to know that. If it's a particular person, we want to know that too.

However, while the Sunshine Law strongly encourages making information available online, it does not entirely mandate this. This may be why MSHP feels it can force a reporter to make a formal records request to get the names instead of putting the names out there.

I asked what the turnaround time on a formal request would likely be, but MSHP would not venture a guess. If it takes days for MSHP to respond (and so far, I have heard it is taking longer), the public's right to know suffers.

While any instance of fraud is

unfortunate, and MSHP's instinct to protect the public laudable, there has not been an indication it has been a widespread problem, nor one that would justify ending a longstanding practice that was in harmony with the Sunshine Law.

There may be a deeper concern lurking here. MSHP also pointed to the Drivers Privacy Protection Act (DPPA) as a reason why the names must not be published online. The DPPA, as you likely know, is a federal law that protects personal information collected by state DMV's.

However, the DPPA applies to DMV records, and not to law enforcement records. The DPPA has been in place a long time – and yet it has never been cause to hold back names on these preliminary reports before. Now MSHP is requiring reporters to indicate what permitted purpose under the DPPA the reporter needs the information.

So, regardless of the extent or duration of a scam, MSHP appears to be taking the position that the DPPA applies to its accident reports. The U.S. Court of Appeals Eighth Circuit has not yet addressed this particular issue, and whether an accident report can qualify as a DMV record under the DPPA is a developing area of the law.

MSHP concedes these records are open, and it is providing the public and press a way to access the information. But the problem is speed. We continue to explore every option available to get this information back in your hands.



Take a trip through Missouri's history with 2025's NIE serial story

Set in the village of Arrow Rock, the 8-chapter story will teach about our state's early pioneer history.

The Missouri Press Foundation supports Newspapers in Education by providing free serial stories, which include chapter related newspaper activities, as well as many educational features. Newspapers publish this content specifically for young readers and to provide resources for their educators. In many communities, local businesses, organizations and individuals partner with their newspaper to provide classroom copies to schools at no charge, promoting literacy and education in their community.

Each year, for the past seventeen years, the Missouri Press Foundation Newspapers in Education creates a serial story in partnership with the National Newspaper Association Foundation to provide content to all newspapers, nationwide.

For 2025, we have chosen to have an 8-chapter series written, that is a continuation of one of our most popular series, *Night at the Capital*. That story introduced Charlie, a young student on a field trip to Missouri's capital in Jefferson City. He managed to leave the tour and began meeting historical ghosts who helped him solve a long-standing mystery.

In the story of 2025, Charlie is now a history teacher taking his students on a field trip to Arrow Rock, Missouri. Arrow Rock is a historic village on the Oregon and Sante Fe trails. The MO Press Association has curated a standing exhibition of early printing presses there. With Charlie involved, you know there will be ghosts and hijinks.

Having Charlie as a reoccurring character allows us to promote the original story as well as the new one and gives us the opportunity of using his character again, in other stories. The download code to access the story is **arrowrock**.

Carolyn Mueller, the author of *Night at the Capital*, also wrote this year's story. She has written several of our stories, which are always well received.

Illustrator Philip Goudeau has created the artwork for several of the serial stories and his work always brings energy and life to the features

This series will be offered free of charge to newspapers in Missouri and across the country, with publication beginning January 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2025. Newspapers will access the material from our download site, www.mo-nie.com. Each of the eight chapters will include



Philip Goudeau is again illustrating Missouri Press Foundation's Newspaper in Education serial story. The 2025 serial continues the tale of the main character from the previous NIE story, *Night at the Capital*. (Submitted graphic/Philip Goudeau)

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

We are also offering the 2016 story, *Night at the Capitol*, for free from November 2024 to June 30, 2025. Students will enjoy Charlie's back story, which sets the stage for the current edition. That download code is **capnight16**.

Any newspapers needing help planning, promoting or publishing this series, should contact Helen Headrick, Missouri NIE Coordinator for support, hheadrick@mopress.com.

Our goal is to have young readers across the nation reading their community newspapers in 2025 and realizing what may be found there.





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Get 2025 press passes through Jumbl

Missouri Press members will need to make a Jumbl account for other Association services.

From Missouri Press Staff

The time has come to again request press cards and auto stickers, but the process for next year's cards will be a little different. Members will be able to utilize a form on Jumbl to request press cards.

The form will also allow you to request 2025 calendars and "PRESS" auto stickers.

You can find the press pass request in the "Forms" section of Jumbl. For more



information about getting started with that service, please contact kfortier@mopress.com.

Free data training bootcamp for rural journalists

From Investigative Reporters and Editors

We've got a great training opportunity for journalists serving rural audiences, which will be taking place conveniently on Mizzou campus!

It's a fellowship opportunity to help newsrooms pursue data-driven investigative stories. IRE's annual R-CAR Fellowship, offered in conjunction with the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues at the University of Kentucky, offers financial support to journalists interested in attending Data Journalism Bootcamp.

As one of IRE's signature training programs, Data Journalism Bootcamp empowers journalists across different beats and media with data skills. We call it "bootcamp" because the training is an intense, weeklong program – but don't let that scare you! Beginners are welcome, especially in our January and March bootcamps, which focus on Google Sheets.

The deadline to apply for the January bootcamp is Nov. 18, 2024.

The deadline to apply for the March bootcamp is Jan. 6, 2025. Start your application here: <https://bit.ly/4hJ66Rw>.

Fellows receive a one-year IRE membership/renewal (up to \$75 value), complimentary bootcamp registration (up to \$1,250 value) and a travel stipend (up to \$500).

Who is eligible for the R-CAR Fellowship?

U.S.-based professional journalists working for:

- A newspaper with circulation fewer than 40,000 with a significant rural audience.
- A television or radio station outside the top 100 Nielsen markets with a significant rural audience.
- A nonprofit news organization with demonstrated rural coverage and readership.

Freelance journalists who have:

- A clearly defined project with rural impact; a small, rural news organization committed to publishing the story; and most of their income from independent journalism.

Reach out to schools in your coverage area and offer them access to:



MPA expands access for training tools to high school journalists

Two training tools that have benefited Missouri Press Association members are now being offered to help prepare the next generation of journalists.

Since MPA began offering Earn Your Press Pass and Digiversity.tv as part of its membership, dozens of staffers at member newspapers and adjacent organizations have used these tools to learn and improve their skills.

Now high school students have the opportunity to learn from these resources.

MPA member newspapers are encouraged to talk with local school newspaper and yearbook club advisors to let them know their students can be signed up for Earn Your Press Pass and Digiversity.tv, the Adobe CC-focused training website from Russell Viers.

EYPP, the brainchild of Kansas newspaper publishers Lindsey and Joey

Young, is intended to help newspapers train staff or freelancers who want to write for their newspaper but don't have experience in the profession.

Digiversity.tv is a platform for tips and techniques to use design software more efficiently, focusing on the Adobe suite of products. Russell and Julia Viers tackle a variety of topics using videos, written articles and live webcasts.

The minds behind both programs support offering them to high school newspapers and similar groups. In fact, Lindsey Young, the instructor of Earn Your Press Pass, is a former high school teacher, and Russell Viers has a long history of working with school yearbook publishers.

MPA members wanting more information about providing access to Earn Your Press Pass or Digiversity.tv should contact Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com.

Jumbl is your new portal to accessing more from MPA

From Missouri Press Staff

The pieces are coming together for Missouri Press members to start using Jumbl, a member management platform that will make it easier for newspapers to provide up-to-date information and Association staff to access it.

What is Jumbl? It is an association management system that for MPA will consolidate our current processes of tracking membership, donor relationships and advertising partners into one platform. It will also be the method for accessing NIE content in the future and how you register for future Missouri Press events, such as Day at the Capitol.

Kristie Fortier, MPA's member services director who has been heading the Jumbl project, said more members are signing up each day and poking around in Jumbl. Their feedback is helping her and MPA's other staff better assist the wider membership in navigating the platform.

"There are a lot of moving parts available with Jumbl but only a few will be required for members to complete," Fortier said. "Something I like about the platform is that depending on how you want to use it for your newspaper, you can do the bare essentials or really provide a lot more information about your publications than MPA has ever gathered before."

One of those "bare essentials" will be something that affects almost every newspaper member of the Association, the agreement between Missouri Press Service and newspapers to place advertising throughout the year.

The move to an all-digital agreement for Missouri Press Service (MPS) embodies the goals that Fortier wants to achieve by adopting Jumbl and its services.

Jeremy Patton, MPS' advertising placement director, has been working with other staff to convert the old paper version into an easy-to-follow digital form that will make it much easier to access and keep track of relevant advertising information.

Patton anticipates the change will

What is Jumbl?
Jumbl is an Association Management System that consolidates Missouri Press' current processes of tracking membership and donor relationships into one platform.

- Membership
- Event Registration
- NIE Stories
- Emailing
- Donations
- Membership agreements
- Newspaper Directory
- More!

How Do I Get Started?
Follow the steps below to get started, and if you have questions, email kfortier@mopress.com.

Step 1 You will receive an email
You have recently selected a web-based association management system, please contact us at kfortier@mopress.com if you have any questions or need assistance. We will provide you with a link to access your account and a password to log in. Please keep this password secure and do not share it.

Step 2 Click the link and set up password to login.
Click the link below to set up your account. Add your account details, such as your organization name, address, phone number, and website. We will email you a password to log in.

Step 3 Confirm your details
Please confirm your details and create your profile.

Step 4 Add your staff
Add your staff members to the system and assign roles.

What's Next?

October 2024
ONLINE Newspaper Agreement Form

December 2024
ONLINE Membership Renewal

cut down on his and other MPS staff's time following up with members about incomplete agreements.

Fortier added that the digital form will allow members to more easily update information for their newspaper's rates, circulation numbers and even printer throughout the year.

Updating advertising rates will have to be done through the electronic form, accessible via Jumbl, where newspapers will also be able to upload new versions of their rate cards. Phone calls or emails to update rates will not be allowed as changes need to be reflected in the newspaper agreement database.

This year's agreement needs to be filled out by Nov. 30.

Any newspaper with questions about completing the agreement can contact Jeremy Patton at jpatton@mopress.com.

MPA's membership renewal process will also be completed through Jumbl going forward. Please look for more information about that process in future MPA newsletters.

For more information about accessing Jumbl, please email Kristie Fortier at kfortier@mopress.com or Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com.



CALENDAR

November

14 — Past Presidents and Spouses Dinner, Park Restaurant, Columbia

28-29 — Missou

27 — Missouri Press Offices Close Early for Thanksgiving Holiday

30 — Deadline to Complete Digital Missouri Press Service Agreement

December

25 — Missouri Press Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday

2025

January

1 — Missouri Press Offices Closed for New Years Day

April

10-11 — Missouri Press Advertising Managers and Executives Meeting, Sheraton Westport Chalet, St. Louis

September

11-13 — MPA 159th Annual Convention and Tradeshow, The Wildwood Hotel, Wildwood

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.

Missouri Press Marketplace

FAYETTE ADVERTISER

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER: Award-winning weekly newspaper in Howard County. Locally owned since 1840. Loyal advertising and readership. Excellent staff. Debt free.

Fayette is the county seat with a population of approximately 2,600, and home to Central Methodist University.

FOR SALE

Coverage area includes Fayette, New Franklin, Armstrong, Harrisburg, Higbee, and Glasgow.

Email jaddison@fayettenews.com for more information. (7/15/2024)

SOUTHWEST GROUP: Three weekly newspapers in Jasper County

Carl Junction's
Jasper County **Citizen**

are offered for sale as a group. One covers the county seat, the other two are long-time established newspapers.

All are legal publications. Owners wish to retire.

Email jascocitizen@gmail.com for more information. (5/1/2024)

HELP WANTED

DAILY AMERICAN REPUBLIC

SPORTS EDITOR: Do you love high school and small college sports and believe there's much more than covering games? Then you're the person we're looking for!

The Daily American Republic seeks a talented sports editor interested in helping create compelling local sports content and craft the newspaper's daily sports section. This candidate will be working for a family-owned media company in Poplar Bluff's downtown. Our community includes wonderful retail and outdoor amenities, small-town charm, and Three Rivers College.

We want our next sports editor to share stories about the athletes and coaches in both print and digital format and not just rely on game coverage to fill the pages.

We are also looking for someone who will be an active part of our newsroom, coachable, and can communicate well with others and understand at times it's better to pick up the phone and call someone instead of texting and emailing.

PERKS: We offer the standard full-time benefits, including medical, vision and dental insurance, 401K and free life insurance. We also offer flexible work schedules and an opportunity to become part of a growing community. Salary range for this position is \$35,000 to \$40,000 per year.

To apply for the position, email a cover letter and resume, along with examples of your work, to applications@darnews.com. (10/1/2024)



PUBLISHER: The Joplin Globe seeks an innovative, ambitious newspaper executive to lead its daily newspaper in southwest Missouri.

Our publisher will direct and manage the day-to-day activities of our newspaper operation to ensure profitability by meeting revenue and expense targets. We are looking for a revenue-producing star and creative thinker with a track record of bringing concepts to reality. The successful candidate will be a champion at leadership and community involvement.

Our publisher will work closely with all departments with special attention given to audience development and advertising sales, fostering new products and events to further strengthen this award-winning Tuesday-Saturday publication. This person will coach, manage and engage in advertising sales alongside team members to drive revenue in print, online and through new event opportunities.

Candidates should have a bachelor's degree or equivalent in a related field and a minimum of five years' related work experience. A proven history of successful leadership, sales ability, creativity, problem-solving, innovation and staff management are critical.

Interested candidates should send their resume, a cover letter explaining

why they are qualified for the position to Bill Hanson at bill.hanson@newsandtribune.com. (9/19/2024)

SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

FREELANCE WRITERS: Do you like to write? Are you located in the Warrensburg or Sedalia areas? We are looking for freelancer writers to cover occasional news and sports stories at The Sedalia Democrat and Warrensburg Star-Journal. If interested, email us at joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com or jamilak@sedaliademocrat.com. (9/9/2024)



REPORTER: Houston Herald, a weekly newspaper with a strong digital presence in Houston, Mo., is looking for candidates for a full-time reporter position. Candidates should possess writing, sports, photography, page design and social media knowledge. Clear and efficient communication skills along with a willingness to learn are crucial for the position. The ideal candidate would be willing to work alongside the editor to meet the needs of any given day/week, which could evolve. This is an hourly wage-based position. Please submit your resume to Isaiah Buse, P.O. Box 170, Houston, Mo. 65483, or by email to ibuse@houstonherald.com for consideration. (9/9/2024)

Are you using these resources?

Expand and enhance your editorial coverage.

From Missouri Press Staff

Missouri Press News

As a local newspaper, nobody knows your community like you do because it's YOUR beat. But what about statewide coverage, or business news, or the ongoing effects of policies long-since signed into law?

Much commentary has been written in recent years about the collaborative future of journalism, but in many ways local newspapers have always relied on collaboration

to keep the community informed. Remember country correspondents? Or how about running photos a parent took at the game your staff couldn't attend?

That's how you get the job done for your local community, but what if you want to expand your coverage beyond the city, county or region?

There are several statewide and even national services your newspaper can take advantage of and, in some cases, even help contribute to the stories being produced.

Capitol Report

Each legislative session the Missouri School of Journalism sends reporters to Jefferson City for the State Government Reporting Project. The 2025 legislative session begins Jan. 8.

The Capitol Report is available to all MPA members for republishing. A weekly recap of the stories produced by reporters in the Capitol is distributed to MPA members by Missouri Press staff and stories of particular note are sometimes distributed separately.

Newspapers wanting a more localized approach to statehouse reporting are encouraged to contact Fred Anklam with story ideas or requests for comment from legislators in response to specific legislation or state policy. Anklam can be contacted by email at anklamf@missouri.edu.

To receive the Capitol Report weekly emails, email Matthew Barba at mbarba@mopress.com.

Missouri Business Alert

A digital newsroom providing business news from across the state while training University of Missouri students in new technology and methods, giving them hands-on experience in business reporting, marketing and other skills.

Sign up for the Morning Minutes newsletter to get a rundown of statewide business news. Content from the Missouri Business Alert newsroom is available for republication with attribution, similar to other Missouri School of Journalism projects.

Visit missouribusinessalert.com to subscribe to the newsletter or contact Managing Editor Michael Stacy at stacyjm@missouri.edu with questions about content.

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 is dedicated to investigative journalism that sheds light on how decisions in Jefferson City are made and their impact across the Show-Me 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>.

Free poetry-focused column

Missouri Press, on behalf of the Springfield News-Leader, has made available a year's worth of columns focused on poetry. The columns are available for newspapers to republish online or in print at no charge.

A full list of the column's installments is available on Missouri Press' website.

The column was initiated at the request of David L. Harrison, Missouri's poet laureate, who has published more than 100 books for young people and educators, and features insight from many more acclaimed poets.

The Conversation

Faculty from research universities throughout the U.S. contribute articles on pressing news topics, which are available for free republication by news outlets and organizations at theconversation.com.

Stories are published from editorial areas that include politics, economy/business, education, environment and energy, health, science and technology.

Republishing guidelines for online and in print are available at <https://theconversation.com/us/republishing-guidelines>.



thebeaconnews.org



FREE TO REPUBLISH. ANYWHERE.

The Beacon is a nonprofit, independent and nonpartisan news organization aiming to improve civic life by keeping the public informed and engaged.

We're creating a network of digital newsrooms across Kansas and Missouri to tackle the local news crisis, ensuring everyone has access to the critical information they need.

We want our stories shared widely (for free!) by other news organizations. This means we welcome and encourage you to republish our reporting.

POST ANY BEACON STORY ON YOUR WEBSITE OR IN PRINT UNDER A CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE.

COVERAGE AREA

Our reporters are based in **Wichita, Topeka, Kansas City and Jefferson City**

STORY TOPICS

- Kansas Government
- Missouri Government
- Education
- Elections
- Health Care
- Housing & Labor
- Local Government

**TAKE YOUR PICK OF THE
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