

MP MISSOURI PRESS NEWS

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Newspapers play important part in democratic process

Providing a platform for comment helps newspapers engage readers

Readers comments are a multi-edge sword. A powerful tool for reader engagement, they can also at times be corrosive to the level of discourse on our websites. After several years of handling them in various forms and strategies, I can say with authority I'm at a loss about how best to contain them.

The *Columbia Daily Tribune* works hard to be a hub of communication. We send out information to readers every day like clockwork, in print, online and on their smartphones and tablets. We take pride in the multiple ways our readers can get information back to us. We have a well-used section for letters to the editor, space for longer local commentary two days a week on the Opinion page and a robust daily column called "Trib Talk" that features short, anonymous transcribed telephone calls.

We assign guidelines to each of those features governing language, libel, length and limits on anonymity. Most important, they are all pre-screened through the traditional editing process before publication.

Online comments, for the most part, leave tradition trampled in the dust. We have guidelines, sure enough, but applying them is sort of like a game of Whack a Mole: Knock one infraction down and another pops up. There are no quitters among our commenters, and we find we often need to fine-tune our tactics to keep up with them.

Lately, though, I'm looking at our story comments in a different light. Our newsroom is involved in a learning exchange with the Kettering Foundation, which is interested in democratic processes at the community



level. The foundation wants to help citizens find their voices and become more involved in making choices in governance. Their interests intersect with ours where readers leave comments, whether it's online or in print. They call it "concern gathering," and we call it reader feedback. I like the idea inherent in this exchange that newspapers play an important part in the democratic process. We have the infrastructure to focus readers on a specific issue and learn about their concerns.

Our first attempt to demonstrate this involved a broad question about local, state and national governments: Are they broken, not broken, or need tweaks? We posed the question as a poll on our website and attracted about 300 responses, 70 percent of which reported government was broken.

Using software available to anyone at no cost, we convened an hour-long online forum and invited our readers to join us at 4 p.m. on a Thursday. We had nearly 400 visitors, and many of them spent the entire hour on our

website. About 70 of them engaged in a live text discussion of government. Among those 70, were a good number of our regular commenters, who are not especially known for their civil discourse. But guess what? They behaved themselves admirably, kept on topic, and asked for future sessions when we were finished. We have promised to continue. These sessions are pretty simple to host and produce, take little time and clearly engage our readers.

As we move forward, the *Tribune's* goal is to drill down in our discussions to find an issue or issues readers believe must be addressed and that can only be ad-

ressed by the broader community. The greatest value might be in the discussion itself. Is that not an important part of our mission? When people are interested in a topic, they tend to want to read about it in their newspaper. We like that idea, too.

Kettering hopes to get a local-issues guide out of our partnership, evidence that its approach of concern-gathering, issue-naming and deliberative discussion can strengthen democracy.

Based on our simple exercise in engaging our readers, I believe the Foundation has already taken note of the crucial

place newspapers occupy in the democratic process.

'When people are interested in a topic, they tend to want to read about it in their newspaper. We like that idea, too.'



PRESIDENT: Jim Robertson,
Columbia Daily Tribune

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Dennis Warden,
Owensville, Gasconade County Republican

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SECRETARY: Jacob Brower,
Monett Times/Cassville Democrat

TREASURER: Paul Berry, *Springfield News-Leader*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Doug Crews

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Mark Nienhueser

EDITOR: Bryan E. Jones

DIRECTORS:

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Dennis Ellsworth, *St. Joseph News-Press*

Donna Bischoff, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

Jack Miles, *The Daily Star-Journal*, Warrensburg

Joe Spaar, *The Odessan*

Trevor Vernon, *Eldon Advertiser*

Jeff Schrag, *Springfield Daily Events*

Carol Stark, *The Joplin Globe*

James White, *Benton County Enterprise*, Warsaw

NNA REPRESENTATIVE: Tianna Brooks,
Mountain View Standard News

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Three regional press association meetings scheduled



The Show-Me Press Association annual meeting is scheduled Thursday, June 11 and Friday, June

12 at Old Kinderhook in Camden.

Thursday's events include the Porter Fisher Golf Tournament at Lake Valley Golf & Country Club and an evening MPA/MPS/MPF board dinner at Old Kinderhook.

Friday's activities include breakfast board meetings; lunch program, "Maneke's Minutes" with

Jean Maneke; and two sessions: "Developing a Social Media Strategy" with Jonathan Groves and "Economic Development Strategies/Coverage" with John Beaudoin.

The "Brews and Views" roundtable discussions include moderators Doug Crews, Beaudoin, Mark Nienhueser and Maneke.

The Southeast Missouri Press Association regional meeting is scheduled Thursday, July 16, in Cape Girardeau.

Registration begins 3 p.m. in the University Center at Southeast Missouri State University.

Newly-elected Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, will be on the program at the Southeast Missouri Press Association's annual meeting.



Speaker Richardson will address the gathering at 3:30 p.m. in the University Center on campus.

Additional Programming includes "Newspapering Nuts and Bolts" with Gary Rust of Rust Communications; Sports photography and "Live streaming vs. YouTube video sharing" with Fred Lynch of the *Southeast Missourian*; and developing a marketing campaign that works, with Beth Chism of the *Perryville Republic Monitor*.

The Ozark Press Association annual regional meeting is scheduled Friday, July 17 in Reed Auditorium, Trustee Science Center, on the campus of Drury University in Springfield

Programming kicks off 2 p.m. with an Ethics in Journalism session, with retired editor Dale Freeman.

Metrics, Moneyball and Making the Most of Your Website is the title of the 3 p.m. session, with Managing Editor Paul Berry, Springfield News-

Leader.

The 4 p.m. session is Maneke's Minutes, with Jean Maneke, Missouri Press Association's Legal Hotline Attorney.

A Springfield Cardinals Game begins 7 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and include patio group seating and free souvenir mug. Missouri Press Foundation will host snacks at the game. Tickets will be mailed -- please order by July 10. Call Zack Pemberton, 417-832-3038, and

request Missouri Press Association Rate.

Limited tickets are available at group rate.

Registration deadline for the Ozark Press Association meeting is July 10.



Register NOW!

Registration forms for all three meetings can be found online at:
http://www.mopress.com/CURRENT_FORMS.php

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Missouri Press Service Selected for RJI's Institutional Fellowship



Every fall, the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute invites proposals from people and institutions to collaborate with RJI on innovative ideas and projects to improve the practice or understanding of journalism.

From exploring journalistic opportunities for wearable technology to helping smaller community newspapers provide digital services for advertisers, the ninth fellowship class of

the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute continues RJI's commitment to nurturing and strengthening journalism's service to citizens and their communities.

This year's residential, nonresidential and institutional fellowships were chosen from among 225 applicants from around the world.

The fellowship class also includes three faculty members from the Uni-

versity of Missouri.

Missouri Press Service has been selected as one of two institutional fellows.

Staff of the Missouri Press Service will create and test revenue-generating digital services that smaller newspapers could provide to local merchants.

The project leader is Mark Nienhueser, MPS advertising director.



Nienhueser

A full list of fellows is listed online: <http://www.rjionline.org/news/rji-announces-its-2015-2016-class-fellows>



Win 2015 Jeep at Porter Fisher Golf Classic, Still Room to Register Golfers, Teams

Golfers at this year's Porter Fisher Golf Classic will have the chance to win a 2015 Jeep Wrangler Sport 4x4 in a hole-in-one contest and there is still room to register as an individual or a four-person team!

Don't delay, register today!

The tournament is scheduled Thursday, June 11 at Lake Valley Golf & Country Club in Camdenton and is open to all Missouri newspaper members and friends.

"You do not need to be a member

of the Show-Me Press Association or registered to attend the Show-Me Press meeting to participate in the golf tournament," said Melody Bezenek, Missouri Press Foundation director. "We are giving all Missouri newspapers and friends the opportunity to network and connect in a casual environment that is centrally located."

Cost to participate is \$65 per player and includes greens fees, cart, prizes, grilled lunch and hole contests.

The tournament begins 11:30 a.m.

with a shotgun start and is in a four-person scramble format.

"We especially appreciate funds raised at this year's tournament because of increased impact the Foundation hopes to have this year," said Bezenek.

Individual teams and players can register to play by completing the registration form and sending payment to:

Missouri Press Foundation, 802 Locust Street Columbia, MO 65201.

A registration form can be found online at: www.mopress.com/_lib/files/2015PorterFisher_Form.pdf

Small Town, Big News

Missouri Press Association

*149th Annual
Convention
& Trade Show*

MPA Convention coming to Columbia Sept. 10-12

Mark your calendars for the Missouri Press Association 149th Annual Convention & Trade Show. Make plans now to attend the 2015 Annual Convention scheduled Sept. 10-12, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia.

This year's theme is "Small Town, Big News," emphasizing the importance of newspapers to their communities.

The jam-packed schedule includes a trip to Arrow Rock for shopping, music, food and drink, and a special visit to the MPA's Print Shop Museum, exhibiting historical presses and other unique items related to the newspaper trade.

Speakers include former USA Today editor and current chief of staff for President George H. W. Bush, Jean Becker; the new Dean of the University of Missouri School of Journalism David Kurpius and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin; St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist Bill McClellan; and many more.

A workshop with Russell Viers and panel discussions about covering Missouri's courts, newspaper careers and sportswriting are planned.

Useful sessions about advertising sales, native advertising, user content, finding and engaging audiences, online

comments, community newspapers, and more are available.

Don't miss the fun, food and fellowship with other newspaper people and, of course, the Hall of Fame Banquet and Awards Luncheon honoring and recognizing journalistic achievement.

Look for more details about convention speakers and other activities from MPA!

Hotel reservations can be made by calling 573.445.8531. Please ask for the Missouri Press Association special room rate of \$99.95.

See you there!

149th Annual Missouri Press Association Convention and Trade Show

Holiday Inn Select -- Executive Center
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--- Tentative Agenda ---

Thursday, Sept. 10

9:30 a.m. Missouri Press Foundation Board meeting
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Workshop with Russell Viers
Noon MPA/MPS Board meeting and lunch
4-8 p.m. Arrow Rock MPA Print Shop Museum Fundraiser: food, drink, tours, shopping, music.

Friday, Sept. 11

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Program: MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and new J-School Dean David Kurpius
9:30 a.m. Panel Session or Speaker (TBD)
10:45 a.m. Advertising Sales Session: Rick Ferrell
10:45 a.m. Panel: Covering Missouri's Courts -- Jean Maneke, moderator
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. MPA Trade Show
11:45 a.m. Missouri Press Business Meeting, Election of Officers
Noon Luncheon with Jean Becker, former USA Today editor, chief of staff for President George H. W. Bush
1:30 p.m. Speaker: Jaci Smith, Native Advertising
1:30 p.m. Panel: Sportswriting -- Joe Walljasper, Bill Battle, Jason West
2:45 p.m. Panel: Why Did I Pick Newspapers for a Career? Jim Robertson, moderator
2:45 p.m. MU Journalism Prof. Joy Mayer, social media content, finding and engaging audiences, online content
3:45 p.m. Reception in the Trade Show for all attendees
6 p.m. Missouri Press Hall of Fame Banquet Reception in the Trade Show
6:30 p.m. Missouri Press Hall of Fame Banquet

Saturday, Sept. 12

8:30 a.m. Breakfast with Bill McClellan, St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist
9:30 a.m. Rick Ferrell: Advertising Sales
9:30 a.m. Jock Lauterer: Community Newspapers
10:45 a.m. Jann Carl, Small Town, Big Deal (tentative)
11:45 a.m. Better Newspaper Contest Awards Luncheon;
William E. James Outstanding Young Journalists of the Year;
William A. and Jo Anne Bray Scholarship Winner; Edward L. Steele Scholarship Winner

New HQ for State Historical Society

General Assembly approves \$35 million in bonds for project

(Columbia Daily Tribune) -- The State Historical Society of Missouri, founded by the Missouri Press Association in 1898, is in line to have a new, \$35 million headquarters building constructed in Columbia.

The project is among a repairs and capital projects bill passed May 7, by the Missouri General Assembly. The bill awaits Governor Jay Nixon's signature.

Dr. Gary Kremer, executive director of the State Historical Society, said, "There's still work to do" -- referring to Governor Nixon signing the bill and issuance of the bonds.

"We've been thinking about it and working toward this for a long time," Kremer said. "The possibilities and the promise of this happening finally is pretty exciting."

The building would relocate the Historical Society from Ellis Library on the University of Missouri campus, its home for nearly 100 years. The new building "would give us more space for display of our many Missouri treasures" while also providing space for public meetings, Kremer said.

The new building would be located on three-quarters of a block on Elm Street between Sixth and Seventh

streets, across from Peace Park on the north side of the MU campus. The building would be about one block to the west of the Missouri Press Association's headquarters building.

Initial planning has been completed by architect Herb Duncan. The building would have some underground parking, space for proper display of the Society's world-class artwork, an auditorium and much better facilities for researchers and staff.

Also in the early stages is a Center for Missouri History Studies, with plans for university classes to be taught in the building.

Scenes from 2015 MPA Past Presidents & Friends Dinner

April 30, 2015 - Columbia Country Club



Debbie and Jim Robertson, from left, share a laugh with Jackie Miller and Tricia Crews during conversation April 30 at the annual Missouri Press Association Past Presidents and Friends Dinner in Columbia. Jim Robertson is the 2015 MPA president.



Steve Oldfield, left, speaks with Dane Vernon April 30 at the MPA Past Presidents dinner in Columbia.



Gary Sosniecki, left, and Mark Maassen converse April 30 at the Missouri Press Association Past Presidents and Friends Dinner at the Columbia Country Club in Columbia.



Dean Mills, from left, Chuck Haney and Wendell Lenhart attended the annual Missouri Press Association Past Presidents and Friends Dinner April 30 in Columbia. (photos by Shelby Feistner)



Missouri Press Association Past Presidents

Missouri Press Association Past Presidents gathered April 30, 2015 at the Columbia Country Club in Columbia for the Past Presidents and Friends Annual Dinner. Attending included, front from left, Doug Crews, Missouri Press Association Executive Director, Columbia; Dalton Wright, *Lebanon Daily Record*, 1986; Steve Oldfield, *Adrian Journal*, 2006; Gary Sosniecki, *Vandalia Leader*, 2004; Wallace Vernon, *Eldon Advertiser*, 1973; Betty Simpson Spaar, *The Odessan*, 1988; Vicki Russell, *Columbia Daily Tribune*, 2009; William L. Miller, Sr., *The Washington Missourian*, 2000; R. Dean Mills, Dean - Missouri School of Journalism, Columbia; back from left, Don Warden, *Owensville Gasconade County Republican*, 1993; Harold Ellinghouse, *Wayne County Journal-Banner* (Piedmont), 1996; James C. Sterling, *Bolivar Herald-Free Press*, 1985; John Spaar, *The Odessan*, 2005; Chuck Haney, *Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune*, 1995; Mark Maassen, *The Kansas City Star*, 2013; David Bradley, *St. Joseph News-Press*, 2007; Jim Robertson, *Columbia Daily Tribune*, 2015; Wendell J. Lenhart, *Trenton Republican-Times*, 2001; Dave Berry, *Bolivar Herald-Free Press*, 2003; Kevin Jones, *St. Louis American*, 2010; Dane Vernon, *Eldon Advertiser*, 2002; Joe A. May, *Mexico Ledger*, 2011; and Bill D. Williams, *Thayer News*, 1974.

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Membership Application

The Missouri Press Association has received a "Friend of Missouri Press" Membership" application from:

Macon The News, Editor and Publisher Ryan Eidson, 301 N. Mission St., PO Box 636, Macon, MO 63552, news@maconthenews.com, 660-395-NEWS (6397).


Macon The News is published twice weekly (Wed. and Sat.) and has a circulation of 725.

Membership applications are considered by the MPA Board of Directors at its first meeting after this notice has been published in at least three issues of the MPA Bulletin, eBulletin or magazine. The next meeting of the MPA Board is scheduled June 12, 2015 in Camdenton.

Anyone with comments about this application should email them to Doug Crews, Executive Director, MPA, at dcrews@socket.net. (*Third notice*)

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ON THE MOVE



• **Buffalo** - Jim Hamilton announced his "retirement" from the official payroll as a senior writer for Phillips Media Group, owner of the *Buffalo Reflex* and sister publications, at the end of May. However, he will continue to write columns and other features on occasion. Hamilton began his community journalism career in 1976 as news editor for the *Bolivar Herald-Free Press*. He left in August 1977 to pursue graduate studies at Southwest Missouri State University (MSU), and later was publisher/editor of the *Buffalo Reflex*. In 2003, he served as editor and general manager of the *Bolivar Herald-Free Press*.



• **Versailles** - Bailey Hornback has joined the staff of the *Versailles Leader-Statesman* and *Morgan County Press* (Stover) as the new sports/general assignment reporter. She is a 2014 graduate of Morgan County R-II High School in Versailles. "I have grown up knowing a little about how newspapers work," she said, as her stepfather, Bryan Jones, was managing editor in Versailles prior to taking a position with the Missouri Press Association.



• **Richmond** - Jo Ellen Dale, social columnist for the *Richmond News*, has been named as one of Missouri's distinguished seniors for her community service. Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder notified Dale of her selection. She was nominated by Rep. Joe Don McGaugh, R-Carrollton. In addition to writing her weekly column, she volun-



teers with various civic organizations.

• **Lebanon** - Ken York has been named editor of the *Lebanon Daily Record*. He has been employed at the newspaper for approximately eight years and was serving as assistant editor when promoted after the departure of long-time editor Julie Turner-Crawford. Moving into York's former role as assistant editor is Fines Massey, who has been employed at the *Daily Record* for five years as a reporter.

• **Maryville** - Chris Rouch has joined the staff of the *Maryville Daily Forum* as a general assignment reporter. He has a degree in mass communication and was the news editor of the *Northwest Missourian*, the campus newspaper at Northwest Missouri State University, and the general manager of campus radio station KZLX.



• **Perryville** - Amanda Layton has resigned as managing editor of the *Republic-Monitor* to take a position in the local government and to be able to spend more time with her family. She was at the newspaper for nearly 10 years and said, "...it hasn't been just a job. It's been a calling." Katie Barton is the *Republic-Monitor's* editor.



• **St. James** — Aaron Hadlow has left his position as managing editor of the *St. James Leader-Journal* to further his education in Columbia. Natalie Sanders is the new managing editor of the newspaper. Hadlow will continue to do freelance work for Gatehouse Media.

• **California** - Katy McGraw has joined the staff of the *California Democrat* as an advertising representative. She worked five years as a multi-media sales representative for the *Rolla Daily News*.

• **Troy** - Emily Steuernagel has joined the staff at the *Lincoln County Journal* in Troy as a news reporter. She also will help maintain the newspaper's website and Facebook page. She is a graduate of Truman State University and also a personal trainer.



• **Monroe City** - Nathan Smith is the newest reporter for *The Lake Gazette* in Monroe City. He has an associate degree in journalism from Moberly Area Community College.



Scott receives MPA History Award

Hannah Scott of Odessa High School was the recipient of the Missouri Press Association's special history prize and \$200 for her exhibit "Lucile Bluford: The Conscience of Kansas City and Her Leadership in the Call for Change" at the National History Day contest April 25 in Columbia.



She won the MPA special judges award for her excellence in presentation, research and focus on a topic related to journalism. Scott also placed first in the contest and will represent Missouri in the national contest at College Park, Maryland for the third consecutive year.

The students' projects addressed the 2015 contest theme: "Leadership and Legacy in History."

Her exhibit will be on display in the Missouri State Capitol Museum during July.

OBITUARIES



Ozark

Patsy Lou Sims

Patsy Lou (Howard) Sims, 76, of Ozark, died May 6, 2015. She retired from the city of Ozark where she was water clerk. Prior to that, she worked as an editor for the *Nixa Enterprise* and the *Ozark Headliner*. She is survived by a brother; three children and their spouses; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



Macon

Terri Ann Hackett

Terri Ann Hackett, 57 of Macon, died May 6, 2015 at her home near Macon. She was employed at the *Macon Chronicle-Herald* for 19 years, serving 10 of those years as editor. She is survived by husband Robert "Bob" Hackett; a son and daughter; a sister; two brothers; other relatives and friends.



St. James

Frank Merenghi

Frank Paul Merenghi of St. James, formerly of Maryville and Nevada, died April 10, 2015, at the Missouri Veterans Home in St. James. He began his newspaper career at the *Maryville Daily Forum* while still in college, later working his way up to advertising and business manager. He then was publisher of the *Nevada Daily Mail* from 1968 to 1972. After directing that newspaper's change from letterpress to offset printing, he returned to the *Daily Forum* as publisher where he ended his 30-year newspaper career. He was a lifelong bowler and wrote a regular column "Bowl Me Over" for 47 years. He is survived by four children and their spouses; a sister-in-law; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



To MPA friends,

My wife, Sharon, and I appreciated the flowers, notes and cards we received after the deaths earlier this year of my mother and stepfather. Both had been in declining health for some time. My mother died several weeks before my stepfather.

Their funeral was in Milan, where they had lived for many years. (One of my sisters is married to the son of Mary Ann Clark [formerly Cowgill], an owner of *The Milan Standard*). Burial was in Sumner, where my stepfather grew up. We still have family there. Sharon will join me in retirement on June 12.

She has worked at Boone Hospital Center for almost 26 years. We will continue to live in Columbia, and plan to be more frequent intruders into the lives of our six grandchildren -- three with our daughter Katie and husband in O'Fallon, Mo., and three with our son Justin and wife in Maryville, Tenn. (Knoxville suburb).

I'm looking forward to seeing some of you on the golf course in Camdenton on June 11. Mike Sell and I will be swatting balls into the woods together.

The best,
Kent Ford



Digital + Print = Revenue

Mark Nienhueser, Advertising Director with the Missouri Press Association, speaks May 7 during an afternoon session at the Newspaper Association Managers Advertising Conference in Newark, N.J. Nienhueser's presentation was titled "Digital Networks & Print Building for Revenue Growth." The session was about how Missouri Press Service developed a new online ad network, how it is working and what advertisers are saying about complementing digital opportunities with print products. (submitted photo)



Call: 573-449-4167



Some of the vintage press equipment exhibited in the Missouri Press Association's Print Shop Museum in Arrow Rock includes, left, a Chandler & Price platen press and, right, a 19th Century Washington iron hand press, along with a workbench and period type cases, all in functioning order.

The Odd Fellows Lodge in Arrow Rock serves as the home of the Missouri Press print shop museum.

Visit Print Museum during MPA Convention

As part of MPA's 149th Annual Convention, a trip to Arrow Rock for shopping, music, food and drink, and a visit to the print museum is scheduled 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10. Shuttles to the site will be provided to convention attendees.

Upcoming Webinars

Pub Aux Live
Thursday, June 4

A Crash Course in AP Style
Thursday, June 18

Getting the Best Out of Yourself and Your Sales Team
Thursday, June 25

*Presenter Tom Stoyan,
Coaching and Sales Institute*

Quickly Create Slideshows and Galleries

Friday, June 26
*Presenter Jaci Smith,
Faribault Daily News*

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EXPERIENCE | KNOWLEDGE | INTEGRITY

SCRAPBOOK



• **Belle** -- The *Belle Banner*, 109 years old in May 2015, was named the Belle Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Week, in recognition of the newspaper's "efforts to promote our community." The staff of the *Belle Banner* also produces *The Bland Courier* and the *Maries County Gazette* in Vienna.

• **Carthage** -- The *Carthage Press* will be reducing publication, beginning June 10, from five days per week to publishing editions only Wednesdays and Saturdays. This change will reclassify the newspaper from a daily to a weekly. *The Carthage Press* is owned by Gatehouse Media. The publisher is Matt Guthrie.

• **Hannibal** -- The *Hannibal Courier-Post* parking lot now has a new asphalt overlay. The lot was milled and a new layer of asphalt installed during a two-day period. Three concrete pillars also were removed from the lot. The pillars formerly supported a large satellite dish that captured stories

from the Associated Press.

• **Palmyra** -- The Marion County Library was recently awarded a grant from the Missouri State Library to digitize editions of the *Palmyra Spectator* from 1880 through 1955. The library and the newspaper will have links on their respective websites to the State Historical Society of Missouri. Digitizing the newspapers makes them searchable and more readily accessible for research.

• **Tipton** -- Madeline Baer, a Tipton Elementary School sixth-grade student, "job shadowed" *Tipton Times* reporter Curtis Simmons May 4. Baer conducted interviews at a local park as part of a classroom assignment.

• **Odessa** -- In a recent column, Betty Spaar, publisher and editor of *The Odessan*, praised the role interns play at the local community newspaper. In particular, she mentioned Doug Crews, who will be retiring as execu-

tive director of the Missouri Press Association in March 2016. Crews was an intern at *The Odessan* in high school and while attending the MU School of Journalism. He began his career at MPA under Bill Bray, former owner of *The Odessan*. Other *Odesan* interns include a second cousin to Crews, Clayton Crabtree, who now works at *The London Times*; and Darryl Wilkinson with the *Gallatin North Missourian*.

Albany Ledger Sold to Pearl Publishing

Pearl Publishing, Inc., owned by Matt Pearl and the parent corporation of *The Tri-County News* in King City, purchased *The Albany Ledger*, a neighboring weekly newspaper, April 30.

The Ledger previously was owned by Don and Christy Groves, who now will be operating the *Free Press* in Corning, Iowa.

According to Pearl, both *The Tri-County News* and *The Albany Ledger* will remain separate, distinct publications directed at their respective local audiences.



There were 18 students who recently participated in Clyde H. Bentley's editorial writing class through the University of Missouri. Each student paired with a local newspaper editor to learn about editorials and had their work published. Bentley is Associate Professor, Print & Digital News, at the Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia. (submitted photo)

Editorial writing class, Missouri editors provide unique opportunity

a letter from Prof. Clyde Bentley

The MPA and you incredible editors deserve more than just the thanks of the Missouri School of Journalism. You deserve the applause of our profession.

By participating in the MPA Editorial Writing Project, you gave 18 students an experience that no professor alone could. The students of my Editorial Writing class almost without exception said working with you was one of

the best opportunities they have had in journalism school.

Your patience, your professional criticism and mentoring — not to mention the clips from your papers — came up time and again. It was an experience they will take into their careers.

My students from big cities were particularly impressed with the civic care and attention to human-level

issues that is routine to community newspaper editors. I'm sure your readers would gladly join them in giving you an "A" on that.


I look forward to this project each year, knowing it is a unique way to directly connect my students with Missouri's editors. I hope that when the class is next offered in Spring 2016 that I can again call on your expertise. Thank you.

Sources and Resources for Missouri Newspapers



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an Online Presence.
Contact Mark Nienhueser
at Missouri Press.
mdnienhueser@socket.net
573-449-4167

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Enter NNA's Newspaper and Education contest



NNA believes successful newspaper education partnerships should be celebrated. Use its Newspapers And Education contest to highlight newspaper/school partnerships (levels K through community college) that focus on developing fully informed citizens. Both traditional Newspaper In Education programs and non-traditional programs are eligible for entry.

The contest is open to NNA member and non-member newspapers. It will recognize newspapers that have established internships, supported school programs, assisted student journalists and helped local education through activities that reach beyond news coverage.

Entries must have been published or carried out between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015.

Kidsville News!, a literacy and educational initiative based in Fayetteville, NC, is sponsoring this Newspaper And Education contest.

Each of the contest's 10 first-place winners will receive a check for \$100 and an award certificate.

Entrants are asked to choose from several divisions and explain in detail how they developed their contributions to the program, and how those contributions played a role in the program's outcomes. Entrants should supply news articles, photographs, promotional brochures, testimonial letters, internet publications and any other material they believe would assist judges in evaluating their involvement in their program.

Entries must be submitted online by July 1, 2015. Contest winners will be notified in July if they have won, and they will also be invited to accept their awards in person during NNA's 129th Annual Convention & Trade Show,



Oct. 1-3, 2015, in St. Charles, Mo.

There is a \$25 contest fee for NNA member newspapers and \$70 for non-member newspapers for each entry in each category. Entries must have been published or carried out between July 2014 and June 2015

to be eligible. There is no limit on the number of entries that may be submitted to the contest or in any one category.

Questions? Contact Lynn Edinger at 573-777-4982 or e-mail diane@nna.org



Missouri Press Foundation

These individuals and/or organizations made recent contributions to Missouri Press Foundation. To make a donation with a credit card, call (573) 449-4167, or send checks to Missouri Press Foundation, 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201.

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R.B. "Bob" and Patricia Smith

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Missouri Press Foundation

SPORTS REPORTING

TRAINING CAMP



with presenters from the University of Missouri School of Journalism

Friday, July 24, 2015 | 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Missouri Press Association Conference Room

Truth is, sports editors/reporters are among the hardest working people in journalism. This daylong course will provide you with tips and tricks to make your job a little easier. Maybe it's a large change like philosophy. Maybe it's several small tweaks that make things easier immediately. This workshop will help you better serve your readers while making your workload more manageable.

SESSIONS INCLUDE:

GREG BOWERS, associate professor, Missouri School of Journalism, and sports editor, *Columbia Missourian*. Sports is supposed to be fun. Let's make sure that it is. How to reach the geeks but keep everyone interested.

LAURA JOHNSTON, assistant professor, Missouri School of Journalism, and news editor, *Columbia Missourian*. Triage editing: How to do more with less in today's digital world. How to edit stories quickly on deadline and what to look for when you're doing it. We'll also talk about some basic digital editing skills, such as search engine optimization and keywords.

PHOTOGRAPHY: speaker to be determined. Taking good photos with limited equipment. How to use your iPhone, and the iPhones of your readers, to enhance your paper, both online and in print.

MARK SELIG, assistant sports editor, *Columbia Missourian*. Engaging with your readers. Speaker to be determined. A quick guide on how to promote your content online and find and engage with the readers.

Cost is \$79 per person. Lunch will be provided.

MPF SPORTS TRAINING CAMP REGISTRATION — FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2015

NEWSPAPER/COMPANY: _____ CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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Contact Melody Bezenek at MPF, 573.449.4167, or mbezenek@socket.net for more information or to register.

It's not too late to take a Missouri road trip!

More than 50 Missouri newspapers have downloaded 11-part series

It's not too late to be a part of the Missouri Road Trip 2015! The 11-part series is available free to any newspaper to publish in print or online. The full-color, 6-column by 9-inch features will appeal to readers of all ages.

So far, 51 Missouri newspapers have downloaded the series and some are adding local components. The Washington and Warrenton newspapers are encouraging young readers to nominate their own Hometown Heroes. The *St. Joseph News-Press* is posing a weekly question for young readers and awarding a gift basket at the end of the series.

For the first time, Missouri Press Foundation has \$4,000 in incentives to award to MPA-member newspapers that use the series before Aug. 31!

Missouri Road Trip 2015: Every Hero Has a Story takes young readers to all regions of the state to learn about historical stars including Walt Disney, Harry Truman, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Dred Scott, Scott Joplin, Omar Bradley, and also some less well-known figures like Buck O'Neil, Helen Stephens, Marie Watkins Oliver, Rose O'Neil and Susan Elizabeth Blow.

Families who read the features together will be eligible to win weekly prizes – \$50 gas cards – to help take a Missouri Road Trip. A code is provided in each feature, based on the highlighted Missourian's name, and the drawing will be held at the end of the summer to award the weekly prizes based on these codes. Readers should visit the Division of Tourism's website to enter the contest.

Readers who visit the featured destinations and share their photos through the Division of Tourism's social media channels may be picked as Tourism's Fan of the Week.

Everyone who enters the weekly contests throughout the summer is eligible to win the Summer Finale Prize – \$150 gas card, lodging and attraction tickets – for a road trip across Missouri Highway 36, The Way of



American Genius!

Every MPA-member newspaper that publishes the complete series in print will be entered into a drawing to win: one \$1,000 award, two \$500 awards, four \$250 awards and 10 \$100 awards. However, to be eligible to win a prize, you must publish the series before Aug. 31 – so weeklies need to begin the series by no later than mid-June.

The theme for *Missouri Road Trip 2015: Every Hero Has a Story* ties to the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) summer reading

theme followed by many community libraries. Be sure to contact your local library to see how they can help promote the project when it appears in your newspaper.

Missouri Road Trip 2015 features are available now. To download the files, visit monie.com and use download code: MoRoadTrip15. A promotional ad is available there as well.

The Missouri Division of Tourism has a special page on its website devoted to the project and the official rules for the reader contests can be found there – we include a link in each of the Missouri Road Trip 2015 features.

The Newspaper Incentive Rules for Missouri newspapers are available when you download the files at monie.com using download code: MoRoadTrip15. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Missouri Road Trip 2015

Every Hero Has A Story: Walt Disney

When he arrived by train from Chicago in 1906, young Walt Disney couldn't have imagined the profound impact living in Marceline, Mo., would have on his life.

But the small community left an indelible mark on one of the world's most-gifted and celebrated animators.

Growing up on his family's farm in Marceline, Walt showed an aptitude for entertainment. His early "show business" productions involved putting baby clothes on barnyard animals and inviting his friends over to enjoy a circus.

Life in Marceline also inspired Walt's lifelong love of locomotives. For a kid, seeing dozens of trains rumble through town each day was like a dream come true. If you share that passion, Marceline is for you: 70 trains pass through town daily!

Of course, Walt grew up to become one of the world's most well-known entertainers, creating movies such as "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Fantasia," and "Cinderella." He also built and inspired two theme parks during his remarkable career.

If you visit the parks, you'll notice little hints of Walt's ties to the Show-Me State at Disneyland and Disneyworld, where Main Street USA areas are modeled after the Marceline that Walt knew as a child. Plus you can get a taste of Missouri in the Marceline Confectionery at Disneyland.

When Walt was 11, the Disney family moved to a farm in Marceline. In 1910, the Disneys left Marceline for Kansas City. Walt lived in Kansas City, aside from a stint in the Red Cross Ambulance Corps, until 1932, when he left for Hollywood. Walt Disney died Dec. 15, 1966.

Sources: Walt Disney Hometown Museum, Hall of Famous Missourians

"To tell the truth, more things of importance happened to me in Marceline than have happened since — or are likely to in the future." Walt Disney, 1938.

Points of Interest

- Walt Disney's name adorns Marceline's U.S. Post Office, elementary school and the city swimming pool.
- When he was 11, Walt and his brother, Roy, began helping their father deliver newspapers in Kansas City. He got up at 3:30 a.m. to do this two-hour job, seven days a week.
- One of Walt's first business ventures was the Kansas City-based Laugh-O-Gram Studio.
- Learn more about the history of Marceline at MarcelineMo.us.
- Toonfest 2015, a family-friendly event with speakers from the cartooning world, a parade, cartooning symposium and more, is Sept. 19. For more information on Toonfest, visit toonfest.net or call (660) 376-WALT (9258).
- Learn more about the community of Marceline in the area newspaper, at LincolnLeader.com.
- Learn more about Walt Disney from The State Historical Society of Missouri's Historic Missourians site, shs.missourians.edu.

Take A Road Trip to Marceline!

You can get your dose of Disney here in Missouri at the Walt Disney Hometown Museum in Marceline, which is housed in the restored train depot where Disney first arrived in 1906.

The museum features a unique collection of Disney family items that cannot be seen anywhere else in the world.

The Marceline chapter of Walt's life story is a fascinating one. Visit WaltDisneyMuseum.org for more details on the story of this hometown hero.

Win Prizes!

Gas Up and Go visit Marceline with a \$50 gas card! Log on to VisitMo.com/MoRoadTrips and enter the weekly code for a chance to win a \$50 gas card and the Summer Finale Prize. There are 11 weekly codes! This week's code is DISNEY.

Visit any of the destinations in our 11-week Missouri Road Trip 2015 series and share your photos on Twitter using #MoRoadTrips. VisitMO will select a photo to share on our social channels each week.

At the end of the summer, we'll award a family trip on Missouri's Highway 36, The Way of American Geniuses. Each Gas Up and Go weekly entry is automatically entered to win the Summer Finale Prize, a trip from Hannibal to St. Joseph, including lodging, attraction tickets and a \$50 gas card.

Official rules available at VisitMo.com/MoRoadTrips • Parent must enter sweepstakes

MISSOURI
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Missourian Hometown Heroes

Heroes come in all different forms. Heroes can be grown-ups or kids, even pets. Most heroes are ordinary people who do extraordinary things or inspire others to be extraordinary.

Help us recognize local Hometown Heroes by nominating yours! We will feature some of our summer readers' Hometown Heroes in a special *Missourian* feature.

To nominate your Hometown Hero, tell us what makes your hero extraordinary in 200 words or less and send it to TheMissourian@aug.15. Visit emissourian.com/hero to nominate your hero online.

Blair Gives Mizzou \$1 Million Gift

by Susan Redden, Joplin Globe

A Joplin native and graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia has announced plans to give his alma mater \$1 million to support education and research into the connection between American journalism and rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.



The estate gift has been pledged by Timothy Blair, who now lives in Bel Air, Calif. A graduate of Parkwood High School, he received his journalism degree from MU in 1973.

Blair's gift will create the Timothy D. Blair Fund for LGBT Coverage in Journalism. The fund will support MU faculty and students who are examining the media's role in shaping perceptions about gender stereotypes and related issues...

"It's an academic opportunity to explore the relationship between democracy and journalism. That's very important because journalists are not only storytellers, they're truth-tellers. They put names on the faces of AIDS victims, but they can also reinforce stereotypes. It's a mixed bag," Blair said.

He also noted that much has changed with regard to LGBT issues in recent years... that much of that change was "built on the backs" of gay Americans who died of AIDS as well as journalists' coverage of the issues.

Blair said he is proud that his gift is the first of its kind among American universities...

Blair pointed out that, currently, 27 states, including Missouri, allow people to be fired from their jobs, evicted from housing or denied public accommodations and basic services based solely on sexual orientation and identity...

Dean Mills, dean of the MU School of Journalism, said in a statement: "It will support teaching and research on topics that have been historically under-covered or covered badly. Mr.

Blair's family has had a long legacy at Mizzou, and it is wonderful that Mr. Blair has chosen to continue that legacy with his generosity."

Blair's grandfather, Clay Cowgill Blair, was chairman of the board of *The Joplin Globe* and received the MU School of Journalism Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism. He also was a member of the University of Missouri System Board of Curators.

Timothy Blair began his career in journalism at age 15 as a copy boy at *The Joplin Globe*. After graduating from MU and earning a master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis, he worked in marketing and public relations for several St. Louis-based companies.

In 1993, he moved to California and launched BlairPR, a strategic communications company...

Blair said he was impressed with the willingness of MU officials to take on the subject. How that money might

be spent has yet to be determined. MU officials have said the possibilities include attracting faculty interested in LGBT journalism; supporting research and travel for media coverage of LGBT issues; creating fellowships, internships and workshops; and developing course curricula to better educate students on how media coverage shapes and reinforces social, political and legal issues across the nation and world.

"I was astounded at the amount of support, and the complete lack of reticence," Blair said.

Blair has worked with advocacy groups to provide low- and moderate-income housing to under-served minorities and gay and lesbian senior citizens. He is an Episcopal lay minister, a hospital chaplain and a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern California's Bishop's Commission on LGBT Ministries.

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Doing research on Missourians? AARP in Missouri can help you get the information and insight you need. Not only are we dedicated to championing positive social change through our advocacy and service, but also a valuable resource for reporters looking to learn more about fellow Missourians.

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Real Possibilities

Police video access is a 'win-win'

Missouri Legislators should consider Sunshine Law reforms

By the time you read this, all our legislators will be back in their home districts. If you see them walking around the city square some day, you might mention to them that we surely need some Sunshine Law reforms some day when they have time to consider the issue.

Every year for the past few years, Missouri Press Association has worked with various legislators to seek some changes to the Sunshine Law. Usually, at least a bill gets filed and an initial hearing takes place in one of the two chambers. This year, with everyone focused during the early days of the session on the situation in Ferguson and law enforcement concerns, Missouri Press never got any further, for all practical purposes, than fighting a strong wind seeking to close all law enforcement video.

Right now, most law enforcement agencies consider vehicle dash-cam video an "investigative" record and therefore subject to eventual disclosure to the public.

The big issue, as you well know, has been what happens to video when the wearing of body-cameras by law enforcement becomes more commonplace. Admittedly, there may be privacy issues at times. Arguably, there are many times the video will be shot out in open places where the public has no expectation of privacy. Clearly, the public has an interest in seeing what happened when a law enforcement officer is involved in a situation where a suspect dies during the course of an incident.

Months passed, and many legislators in both houses were involved in working on "language" regarding access to that video. It was a struggle to fight off language that totally closed those records to everyone.

I would also add that in the last few months, a number of organizations concerned with access to records have looked at this issue and are beginning to issue policy statements. A consortium of organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Frontier Foundation, issued a recent state-



ment which can be found at <http://bit.ly/1QPDIdV> which addresses that issue. Another such statement will be posted by the time you read this at the website for the Media Law Resource Center (www.mlrc.org). That report is one I helped create, having served as chairman of a subcommittee that drafted it.

All of these model laws include provisions that ensure the public has a right of access, in some form or another, to video from law enforcement body cameras.

I'm sure Missouri will come back to this issue next session. If you get a chance to talk to your legislator this summer, remind them public confidence in law enforcement depends on the public having a level of trust in what law enforcement does.

Having access to video showing officers doing their job boosts this level of confidence, while at the same time ensures law enforcement is protected from unjustified charges, while also helping officers make the right choices when faced with difficult situations. This is basically a win/win situation.

Finally, I have one thing to point out about the Rep. John Diehl matter. Much has been written about the texting scandal and I have nothing to add to that. However, I would like to give a "shout-out" to

David Drebes. He's the editor of an online publication (subscription only) called *Missouri Scout*. I don't take it, but I do see it occasionally. I don't know David at all.

After the story broke last week, he gave kudos to Jason Hancock, of *The Kansas City Star*, for his work in breaking the story. I want to echo praise for the hard work of Jason and the *Star's* staff in getting that story nailed to the wall.

Only another reporter can understand how much work was involved. The public has no idea what is involved in breaking a story like that.

Drebes, in his e-publication, noted "A story this big is really the domain of a daily newspaper – an institution with editors who make sure they get the story. Diehl's team worked for weeks to keep the story from happening. They could have held off a pesky

*"The daily paper
- as a manifestation
of a free press and the
First Amendment -
is a beautiful thing."*

blogger. But Jason Hancock, backed by his paper, worked through it."

Drebes concluded, "The daily paper – as a manifestation of a free press and the First Amendment – is a beautiful thing."

Here! Here! And I know a number of weekly papers who could do just as good of a job!

Missouri newspapers are fantastic!

Missouri Newspaper Organizations

NORTHWEST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Mike Farmer, Rock Port; Secretary, Kathy Conger, Bethany; Treasurer, W.C. Farmer, Rock Port. Directors: Past President, Adam Johnson, Mound City; Jim Fall, Maryville; Dennis Ellsworth, St. Joseph; Jim McPherson, Weston; Chuck Haney, Chillicothe; Steve Tinnen, Plattsburg; Kay Wilson, Maryville; Steve Booher, St. Joseph.

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MPA CALENDAR

2015

June

11 — Porter Fisher Golf Tournament, Lake Valley Golf Course in Camdenton

12 — MPA/MPS/MPF Board meetings (morning)

12 — Show-Me Press Association meeting (afternoon), The Lodge at Old Kinderhook

24-28 — ISWNE Conference, Columbia

July

16 — SEMO Press Association meeting, Cape Girardeau

17 — Ozark Press Association meeting, Springfield

September

10-12 — 149th Annual MPA Convention, Columbia

October

1-3 — 129th NNA Convention, St. Charles

22 — Mo. Photojournalism Hall of Fame induction, Columbia

**PUBLIC
NOTICES**

*Public Notices must
remain in printed
newspapers because
the people must know.*

Missouri Press Foundation

2015 Porter Fisher Golf Classic

Thursday, June 11th

**11:30 Shotgun;
4-Person Scramble**

**\$65 Greens Fees,
Cart, Prizes &
Lunch**

Lake Valley Golf & Country Club

367 C.C. Blair Drive, Camdenton

Be at the golf course by 11 a.m. Box lunches will be provided before teeing off.

Send registration form and check to Missouri Press Foundation, 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201;
or pay by phone with a credit card, (573) 449-4167. Make checks payable to Missouri Press Foundation.

Mulligans may be purchased at the course before teeing off. Prizes will be awarded after tournament.

PRIZES

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Player #2

Player #3

Player #4

**Single and partial teams are welcome
and will be grouped into teams by MPF.**

Golf = \$65 per golfer \$

Mulligans \$10 Each \$

(limit 1 per player per side)

Hole Sponsorship = \$25 each \$

Prize Fund \$

TOTAL: \$



All proceeds will go to Missouri Press Foundation.
All members and guests welcome.