



Missouri Press News

Your insidestory for

January 2004

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New MPA President

Gary Sosniecki of *The Vandalia Leader* became the 133rd President of Missouri Press Association on Jan. 1. His wife, Helen, has been Sosniecki's newspaper partner throughout his career. In the foreground is the Eugene Cervi Award the Sosnieckis received last summer from the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors. Stories begin on page 4.

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You'll be asked to participate

I fell in love with community newspapering in the unlikely setting of Gibson County, Tenn., unlikely because I was born in Chicago, raised in the suburbs and had toured Tribune Tower as an awe-struck child more times than I could count.

The last place this city kid saw himself practicing journalism was in a rural county, especially a rural county in the South. But when the late John Ginn, new publisher of the Jackson, Tenn., *Sun* and a Mizzou alum, offered jobs to 15 members of the J-School Class of '73, Helen and I saw an opportunity to get married as well as get paid.

While Helen joined the copy desk in Jackson, I was named Gibson County bureau chief, a glorified name for a beginning reporter whose job was to cover everything except sports in the county to Jackson's north. For 17 months, I spent my days and nights roaming the towns of Trenton, Humboldt, Milan, Dyer, Bradford and even-tinier hamlets.

I learned how to communicate with a rural sheriff and police chiefs. I learned how courts operate. I covered city councils and school boards, Rotary lunches and Chamber dinners. I visited officeholders in the courthouse in the morning and lawyers around the square in the afternoon.

It was my county, and I loved it.

We missed the Midwest and were glad to get job offers the next year closer to home, but the seed had been planted. It was Helen's dream to own a weekly newspaper, and in 1980, when she found one we could afford in Humansville, population 907, this city kid was ready to have a community of his own.

Several communities later, here I am as the new President of your association. It is an honor that doesn't come very often to a first-generation weekly-newspaper owner, especially one who isn't a Missouri native. And I don't take the responsibilities lightly.

I believe in the Missouri Press Association, in what it has done to serve Missouri newspapers and journalists since 1867. With

the help of you, its members, it will continue serving Missouri newspapers and journalists for the next 137 years.

It has been Helen's and my good fortune to have owned weekly newspapers in three Missouri towns, published a daily newspaper in a fourth and, of course, honed our skills as many of you did on the *Columbia Missourian*.

In each community, we have networked with editors and publishers in neighboring communities. Thus, we know many of you whom we wouldn't otherwise know, because you aren't able to attend MPA activities.

My message to you is that I know you work hard for your newspapers and your communities, and I know you are busy. Some of you, like me, probably are lucky to spend a night or two at home a week.

I also know that you are loyal MPA members regardless of whether you attend its functions, that you have opinions about what MPA can do to help you and your colleagues, and that you just might offer those opinions — and even participate more — if you were asked.

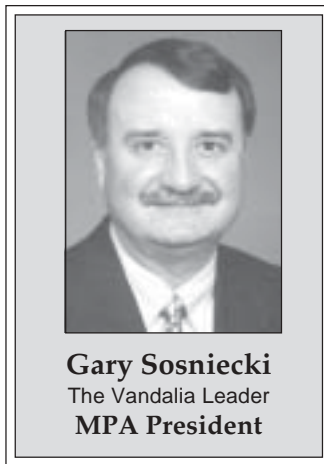
Consider this your first invitation of many to be involved in MPA this year.

I want this to be a year of inclusion. I want those of you who haven't been very involved in

your association before to feel welcome to have an opinion, to feel welcome to participate in what MPA offers today as well as to help plan what MPA will offer in the future.

You'll be reading in coming months about committees your board will be setting up to plan MPA's future. There will be topics of interest to everyone, and I want the involvement of those of you in the trenches as well as those of you who have brought MPA to the point we're at today.

I want each of you to feel free to call me (573-594-2222) or e-mail me ([vandaliialeader@vandaliemo.net](mailto:vandalialeader@vandaliemo.net)) about MPA issues any time during the next 12 months.



President (continued on page 8)



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Helen and Gary Sosniecki stand in front of their holiday-decorated newspaper office in Vandalia. A similar photo appeared in *Missouri Press News* in September, when

the Sosnieckis took over ownership of *The Leader* from the Steiner family.

Sosniecki assumes presidency

Vandalia publisher will seek participation in new committees

Missouri Press Association's new president, Gary Sosniecki, has his hands full.

Sosniecki succeeded Dave Berry as president on Jan. 1. And on Sept. 1, he and his wife and partner, Helen, succeeded the Steiner family as publishers of *The Vandalia Leader*.

"Talk about sleep deprivation," Sosniecki said, relating a recent episode.

A *Leader* employee answered a call from the postmaster. "Is Gary missing something?" the postmaster asked.

Sosniecki had delivered his papers to the mailing dock and walked around the front of the post office to pick up mail. He then walked to the nearby newspaper office.

He made a few more trips back to the post office to pick up mail before the postmaster called to have Gary come and get his pickup truck.

"I just got preoccupied," Sosniecki said.

The Sosnieckis have 35 years in the newspaper business, most of it together. They were married on graduation day from the Missouri School of Journalism in May 1973.

That event contributed to their present situation.

"We came up here on our 30th anniversary," Sosniecki said. "We went to Dripping Spring Church, where we got married."

"We knew *The Vandalia Leader* was for

sale, but we weren't planning to buy it. I didn't want to leave the Ozarks," he said.

A visit to Vandalia to quiet their curiosity settled the issue.

"The town really impressed us," Sosniecki said. "Within a month we had a deal. We had no intentions of doing this."

The Leader is the third weekly newspaper the Sosnieckis have owned. For the past four years — until this summer — they published *The Lebanon Daily Record*.

They continue to live in a rental home with most of their belongings in boxes. Stuffed away in one of those boxes is an unopened letter labeled "Read this before you buy another weekly newspaper," Sosniecki said. They ignored that advice. "This is just what we like to do."

Added Helen with a chuckle: "We like poverty."

"We like to take papers and give them new life," Sosniecki said. "We did it in Humansville; we did it in Seymour; and in a lot of respects we did it in Lebanon."

"It exhausts us, and we don't make any money when we're doing it. But when you get those comments and you see those circulation numbers, it's really gratifying."

Those comments come from Vandalia's citizens.

"It's probably the best reception we've had anywhere. They are so excited that we bought the paper,"

Sosniecki said of the townspeople. "The people have a tremendous respect for the Steiners, who had the paper for 52 years, but they have been very receptive of the changes in the paper."

For Thanksgiving, Sosniecki wrote his customary "local things to be thankful for" editorial. It mentioned good local government, good schools and a good community. Many residents who had been taking their community for granted appreciated the column, he said.

"An old guy came up to me on the street," Helen said. "He's got this kind of gruff look on his face. He said 'You left something out of that Thanksgiving column ... What this town has the most to be thankful for is that you guys bought the paper,' and a big grin lit up his face."

The president of the school board came into the newspaper office and asked Helen if the board could do something without violating the Sunshine Law, Sosniecki said.

The post office staff has been patient as the Sosnieckis update their mailing software and sorting procedures, he said. "We've got a true partnership with the post office here."

Sosniecki went to Columbia to cover the local cheerleaders in state competition.

"I'm popular with cheerleaders now," he said, pointing to a 'thank-you' card

President, first lady have been partners since beginning

Gary Sosniecki grew up in Bensenville, Ill., a Chicago suburb. His wife, Helen, is a native of Clinton, Mo.

They graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism on May 15, 1973, and were married later that day.

Sosniecki has worked at the Jackson, Tenn., *Sun*, the *Southern Illinoisan* in Carbondale and the Hillsboro, Kan., *Star-Journal*. Helen worked for the competing newspaper in Marion, Ill., when Gary worked in Carbondale.

The Sosnieckis have owned and published the *Humansville Star-Leader*

(1980-86) and the *Webster County Citizen* in Seymour (1988-1999). They worked in Kansas before buying the *Citizen*.

Since selling the Seymour paper they published the *Lebanon Daily Record* for Dalton Wright's Lebanon Publishing Co.

They purchased *The Vandalia Leader* on Sept. 1, 2003.

While he was the political reporter for the *Southern Illinoisan* in Carbondale, Gary said, he covered presidential primary candidates Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter and George Wallace in one week.

Helen covered the campaign as managing editor of the neighboring Marion, Ill., newspaper.

During that 1976 campaign, Gary got a Bob Dole scoop. When Dole — the Re-

publican vice presidential nominee — got off his plane in Carbondale, he commented that it was "good to be back home."

Dole was from Kansas, and nobody understood what he meant by that, Sosniecki said. Sosniecki managed to get close to the candidate and asked him what he meant by being back home. Dole said his wife's parents were from Carbondale.

After his speech, Dole motioned for Sosniecki to come up to the head table. The candidate got up and let Sosniecki sit in his seat to interview his wife, Elizabeth, about her local connections.



Sosniecki got a Bob Dole scoop of other southern Illinois media while covering the 1976 presidential campaign. Here he speaks with Elizabeth Dole.

signed by all of the girls. "It's 35 years too late, but ..."

Sosniecki, a native of Chicago, worked for the Jackson, Tenn., *Sun* after journalism school.

"I really think — a Chicago kid spending 17 months in rural Tennessee — got me into community journalism," he said. "It was so exciting being there."

The first time he went to cover a small-town school board, the members invited him to join them at the table. They all introduced themselves and treat-

ed him very nicely, he said.

Then the superintendent said it was time for business, and he leaned over and turned on a window air conditioner behind Sosniecki. "For the next two hours, I didn't hear a thing," he said.

Sosniecki's first contact with Missouri Press Association was in 1972. The Journalism School sent him to the MPA office to meet George Chancellor, who had journalism students write the column "Highlights and Sidelights from the State Capitol" that was syndicated

through Missouri Press Association. Sosniecki rotated writing the column with two other students for a semester.

The Vandalia Leader ran that column.

"I've been published in *The Vandalia Leader* before — it was in 1972," Sosniecki said.

The next year Gary and Helen took a community journalism class being taught by Bill Bray, at the time executive director of MPA. Other members of that class were Doug Crews, current MPA executive director, and the late Craig Watkins, who published the *Cameron Citizen Observer*.

As part of the class, Gary and Helen spent a week working for Ferrell Shuck at the *Lee's Summit Journal*.

Sosniecki said that like his newspaper career, his term as president will be in partnership with Helen.

"We have been a team all the way. Helen and I have a broad background. We both have experience with daily papers and have owned and managed weeklies. I think we understand the problems of both," he said.

He had been attending Missouri Press functions for 18 years before he was asked to be on the board of directors,



The Sosnieckis in the front office of the *Webster County Citizen* in Seymour. They published that weekly near Springfield before going to work for Dalton Wright and Lebanon Publishing Co. The Sosnieckis provided several photos from their past to *Missouri Press News*.

Sosniecki said.

"I want it to be a year of inclusion. I want people to feel like they are part of things," he said.

"People work hard for their communities, and many of them would like to be asked to be a part of things. I want people to feel they can have a real voice in their association."

A focus of his term will be planning for the Association's future, he said. He wants to appoint committees to study a number of issues the association will face in the next 20 years.

"There should be plenty of things for members to be active in," he said.

Sosniecki believes in the association, and he's proud of the fact that he's worked for two National Newspaper Association presidents and owned a newspaper previously owned by a future NNA president.

(The Sosnieckis worked for past NNA president Dalton Wright in Lebanon, and Gary worked for Webster Hawkins, a former Missourian who also was NNA president, in Kansas. They owned the *Humansville Star-Leader*, which in the 1920s was owned by Edwin Abels, who later became president of the National Editorial Association — now the NNA.)

While Gary is leading MPA through 2004, the Sosnieckis will be doing what they like to do in Vandalia, taking up where the Steiner family left off.

Pete Steiner was MPA president in 1978. He died that year at the age of 55.

"People always comment about how good Pete was for the town. I think it's cool to be following in his footsteps, and I never met him," Sosniecki said.

"The best newspaper job in the world is owning a weekly newspaper," he said. "I've never found anything as satisfying as this." □

To sell papers, put them where they'll be seen

To grow circulation, all papers — especially small papers — must make sure their paper is accessible, said Gary Sosniecki, MPA's new president.

Increasing the circulation and readership of *The Vandalia Leader* is one of his main projects. His first week at the paper, in September, the *Leader* had six single-copy sales locations around the area. As of early December it had 11.

Vandalia is a community of about 2,700 people in the northeast corner of Audrain County. Its major employer is a state prison for women that opened recently.

"If every publication would track locations — it is so easy to build circulation if you have papers where people will see them," Sosniecki said.

"You need to be in high traffic locations — all the restaurants and coffee shops."

Sosniecki uses all kinds of racks — honor racks and reconditioned coin racks — to sell single copies. He charts weekly sales at each location.

"I think anywhere you can sell 10 papers a week is worth it. One paper left is ideal. That means nobody left without a paper," he said.

The Leader has paid circulation of 2,150. The week after Thanksgiving it sold 422 single copies from stores and 136 from the office.

"We've got a larger population and a lower page count than in the previous towns we've been in, so we've got room to grow," Sosniecki said. □

Sosniecki has won awards from several newspaper groups

Gary and Helen Sosniecki and their newspapers have won many awards. Notable among them are a Golden Quill award and the Eugene Cervi Award from the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors (ISWNE).

They also have won NNA's Community Development and Community Service awards and twice have won MPA's Community Service Award.

The Golden Quill Award is the ISWNE's top award in its annual editorial writing competition.

The Cervi Award — ISWNE's top honor — recognizes "a career of outstanding public service through community journalism and for adhering to the highest standards of the craft."

The Sosnieckis planned to accept the award last summer in Galway, Ireland, at ISWNE's annual meeting, but Gary's father died two days before departure and they stayed home.

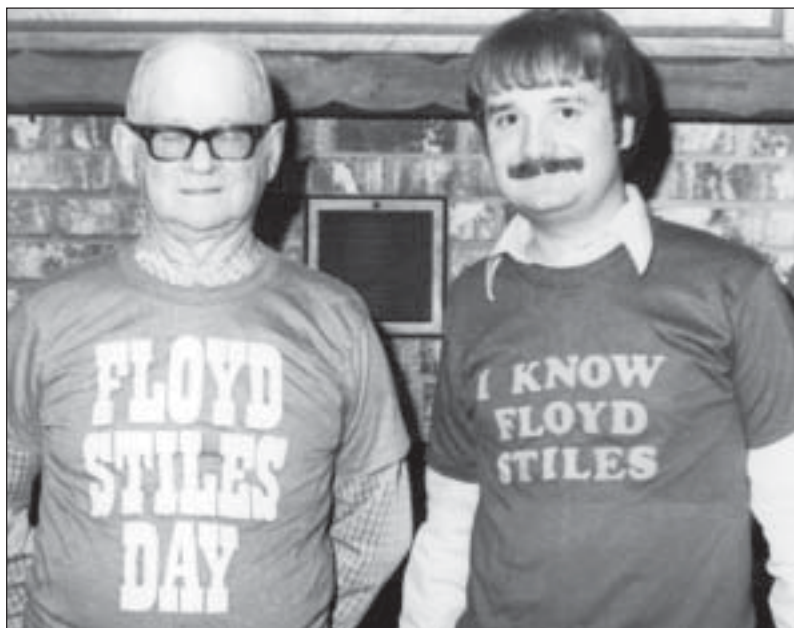
Among other accomplishments they are proud of: The Sosnieckis were instrumental in raising money for a new library in Seymour and for a firefighters memorial in Humansville.

Gary and Helen maintain a close relationship with Dan Wehmer and his wife, Shay. Wehmer worked for the Sosnieckis in Seymour and has published the *Webster County Citizen* since the Sosnieckis sold it to Lebanon Publishing Co.

"They really do call us Mom and Dad," Helen said of the Wehmers.

The Sosnieckis and Wehmers routinely win numerous awards in the Missouri Press newspaper contest. Now they're competitors for those awards.

"We've won enough awards," Sosniecki said, "but I've got to find one category I can beat (Wehmer) in next year." □



Sosniecki with the subject of the Floyd Stiles story.

You can have fun with a paper

"I know Floyd Stiles."

Gary Sosniecki had a t-shirt with that declaration on the front.

During their first weeks as owners of the *Humansville Star-Leader* in 1980, the Sosnieckis helped get a local couple on national TV.

David Letterman was just starting out in television with a morning show.

He had a segment called "Smalltown News" during which he read clippings from community newspapers.

Letterman read a clipping from the *Star-Leader* about Floyd Stiles, then called him on the air. Stiles had taken a trip out west — leaving his wife Zola Mae at home — to see one of his favorite country singers, Rusty Draper.

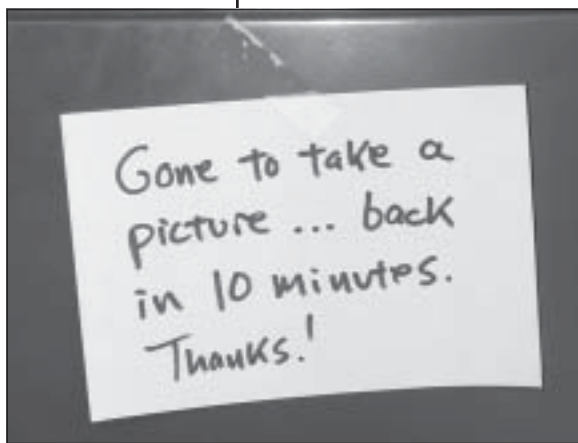
Stiles told the Sosnieckis that Letterman had promised him and his wife a trip to New York. When the trip didn't materialize, Sosniecki called Letterman's staff, who arranged to have Floyd and Zola Mae appear on the show.

The entire show focused on them, Sosniecki said. Even Rusty Draper was there. He didn't remember Stiles, he told Letterman, but he appreciated him because Stiles got him back on TV.

"My last contact with Letterman's staff was when Floyd died," Sosniecki said. "They told me Letterman read a column I wrote about Floyd's passing and said it was sad."

In an interview for an earlier feature, Sosniecki said he had a souvenir of Letterman's subsequent subscription to the *Star-Leader*.

"We framed a photocopy of his check but cashed the original because we needed the \$6.50." □



Most small-town businesses have a note like this one to tape to the front door when an errand must be run.

Old ideas work for new paper

The *Vandalia Leader* prints "Advertiser," which is "an occasional newsletter for our customers."

The December edition of the half-sheet flyer told merchants about Christmas greetings drawn by local second-graders.

Publisher Gary Sosniecki showed copies of his 1998 *Webster County Citizen* to his advertisers. This being his first year in Vandalia, he didn't have a sample of *The Leader* with children's Christmas greetings in it.

They did the same project when he and Helen owned the *Humansville Star-Leader*, except there they had to use 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders "because there weren't enough 2nd graders."

"Basically, this is just the *Webster County Citizen* moved to Vandalia," Sosniecki said of the advertising project. "I've only got six or seven good ideas," he said with a laugh. "When I use them up I have to move somewhere else."

They haven't had time to call on advertisers like they need to, Sosniecki said, but display advertising still is way up over last year.

Gary has been doing virtually all of the reporting, Helen the advertising composition. They share sales duties.

"This formula we have is so simple: Improve the news product and make it accessible to readers, then the advertising will come," Sosniecki said. □

President

(continued from page 2)

Back in 1980 when we bought our first newspaper, family friends Don and Helen Wentland gave us a copy of "Minding Our Own Business." It was written in 1955 by Charlotte Paul, a former Chicago newspaperwoman who, with her husband, had bought a weekly paper in Washington state six years earlier.

Nothing seemed to go right for these entrepreneurs, but through hard work and patience they made their dream a success.



The top photo shows the Sosnieckis in front of the *Humansville Star-Leader*, their first weekly newspaper in Missouri. They are shown in the back shop of their new paper, *The Vandalia Leader*, in the bottom photo.

"We've learned that success does not come to the man who has no problems," she wrote. "...if nothing ever goes wrong, the chances are nothing ever goes at all, for action brings problems as surely as

planting potatoes brings bugs. The man of spirit goes after the bugs, he doesn't quit planting potatoes."

To heck with the bugs, let's plant some potatoes for MPA this year. □

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Top photographers visit J School

Classroom lectures, public display part of outreach program

Three renowned National Geographic Contributing Photographers-in-Residence led Masters of Photography workshops at the Missouri School of Journalism this fall, aimed at both students and the university community. "Through the Lens with the Masters of Photography," was presented by Sam Abell, Karen Kasmauski and Emory Kristof.

The program consisted of classroom lectures, a review session where the photographers met students to critique portfolios and a public lecture with slide presentations by each photographer.

The photographers presented their work Oct. 29 in Gannett Hall's Fisher Auditorium, followed by a question-and-answer session and a book signing of the new National Geographic book "Through the Lens," which showcases 250 of National Geographic's most spectacular photographs. The event was free and open to the public.

"The university outreach program is a new initiative that takes National Geographic's special way of looking at the

world — through the photographer's eye — to university communities," said Terry Garcia, National Geographic's executive vice president for mission programs. "Besides furthering National's Geographic's mission to diffuse geographic knowledge and promote conservation, we hope this initiative will inspire people to see the world in a new way."

The Contributing Photographers-in-Residence program was launched two years ago to support and showcase the work of preeminent freelance photojournalists who have contributed outstanding work to the National Geographic Society over the years. The photographers, in turn, help develop projects and programs that advance the Society's mission.

Sam Abell began working with National Geographic in 1970 and has published 10 books with the Society, most recently "The Mississippi and the Making of a Nation: From the Louisiana Purchase to Today," with historians Douglas Brinkley and the late Stephen Ambrose, in 2002. He has photographed more

than 20 articles for National Geographic magazine. "Sam Abell: The Photographic Life" was published in 2002.

Karen Kasmauski has documented many social issues, such as radiation, viruses, population and aging, and has contributed 26 articles to National Geographic magazine since 1987. Her work has won top honors in the annual Pictures of the Year competition as well as special recognition in the Magazine Photographer of the Year category. Her new book, "Impact: From the Frontlines of Global Health," will be published by National Geographic Books this month.

Emory Kristof is a specialist in underwater, scientific and high-tech subjects, including deep-ocean work beyond normal diver limits. He pioneered the use of robot cameras and remotely operated vehicles and created the preliminary designs of the electronic camera system for the ROV that found the Titanic. He has photographed 40 articles for National Geographic magazine, most recently "Dawn in the Deep," about deep sea vents, in February 2003. □

Louisiana Press-Journal runs stories from Photo Workshop

About 60 students and faculty of the 55th annual Missouri Photo Workshop descended on Louisiana in September.

Those captured by the cameras still tell their stories to family and friends. The thousand people who viewed the photo displays at the school remember them with a laugh or a pause.

During four weeks in November and December, the *Louisiana Press-Journal* published four-page sections featuring the work of the photographers. The *Press-Journal* was host for the workshop, which is a project of the Missouri School of Journalism.

"The photo workshop was a wonderful experience for the people of Louisi-

ana, as it was for the photographers and staff. We hope that these special sections, printed in color and on high grade newsprint, will be a keepsake for our readers for many years to come," said publisher Walt Gilbert.

The photo stories and the photographers also can be seen at the website for the workshop, mophotoworkshop.org.

Most of the photography "students" were from around the United States. A few were from other countries.

The five Missourians in the class were: Dan Dalstra, *Hannibal Courier-Post*; Jenna Isaacson, *Columbia Daily Tribune*; Ted McLaren, Columbia; Rosemarie Rogers, Fayette *Democrat-Leader*; and Todd Weddle, *St. Joseph News-Press*. □

Papers invited to use online news service during coming session

Visit Missouri Digital News (MDN) at mdn.org throughout the legislative session for up-to-date news on Missouri government and public policy.

MDN is operated by the Missouri School of Journalism. Missouri Press Association members have permission to publish any story or information filed at mdn.org.

MDN also carries live MP3 audio of Missouri's House and Senate and features links to legislative and state government, including bills and bill calendars. MDN also links to news headlines around the state.

Contact Phill Brooks at (573) 751-2888 for more information or if you have a request for a localized story from the Capitol. □



NNA board meets

The board of the National Newspaper Association met in Columbia Dec. 5. Missouri board members attending were Doug Crews, MPA, and Jim Sterling, School of

Journalism, right background; and NNA Executive Director Brian Steffens, center foreground. Tonda Rush, an NNA associate and legal counselor, is on the right.

Sign up now for NW Press meeting

Cost for attending the Northwest Missouri Press Association meeting has gone down this year.

The 114th annual meeting will be held Jan. 15-16 at the Ramada Inn in St. Joseph, Frederick Avenue and I-29.

Cost will be \$25 per newspaper or business plus \$60 per person for all activities and meals. People who will not attend all meals will pay \$25 for registration plus the meals they will attend.

A registration form is on the facing page.

Registration will begin at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15. From 2 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday the focus of the meeting will be on business operations — advertising, circulation and alternate ways to generate revenue, including money-making ideas gleaned from entries in the association's

first Great Ideas contest.

Winners of three Great Ideas cash prizes will be announced at a 6 p.m. Thursday reception and dinner at La Dolce Vita, a local Italian restaurant. Northwest Press President Dennis Ellsworth will be host for the evening.

Friday's activities will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the business meeting and an update on current issues from Doug Crews, Missouri Press Association executive director, and Jean Maneke, MPA Legal Hotline attorney.

The morning program, from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., will be devoted to presentations and discussions on "How to Make the Sunshine Law Work Better for Everyone." This session will be open to the public. Invited governmental officials will be asked to switch places with

journalists during small-group discussions and training on applying the law.

The 12:30 p.m. luncheon will feature Charles Gusewelle, the noted author and columnist for *The Kansas City Star*.

The afternoon program, from 2 to 4:15 p.m., will wrap up the training with two segments: "Why Editorials Matter" and "When Everything Goes to Heck: A Search for Lessons Among Community Journalism War Stories."

The convention will end with a 6 p.m. reception and banquet. The highlight of the evening will be presentation of three awards: the James C. Kirkpatrick Award for service to the state and its citizens; the Merrill Chilcote Award for service to journalism in Northwest Missouri, and the Craig Watkins Friends of Northwest Press Award for service to NWMPA. □



MEETING REGISTRATION
**114th Annual Convention
of the
Northwest Missouri
Press Association**

Jan. 15-16, 2004, Ramada Inn, St. Joseph, Mo.

Name: _____

Newspaper or Organization: _____

Address: _____

Names of others attending: _____

Registration/membership fee is \$25 per newspaper or organization. The cost for all meals, workshops, etc. is \$60 per person. Pay one membership fee (\$25) for your company plus \$60 for each person attending. If you do not plan to attend all events listed below, pay \$25 plus the amount of the events you will attend.

	Cost Per Person		No. Attending	Amount
Registration / Membership \$25			_____	_____
ALL ACTIVITIES	\$60	x	_____	_____
OR:				
Thursday, Jan. 15				
"Great Ideas" Seminar	FREE	x	_____	_____
President's Party	\$25	x	_____	_____
Friday, Jan. 16				
Luncheon & Seminars	\$15	x	_____	_____
Banquet / Awards Program	\$30	x	_____	_____
			Total	_____

HOTEL: Register with the Ramada Inn, I-29 and Frederick Ave., St. Joseph; (816) 233-6192. Reserve a room at the Convention rate of \$68 per night until Dec. 31. Mail this form with your check made to Northwest Missouri Press Association, to: Chris Boultinghouse, Treasurer, Mound City News, P.O. Box 175, Mound City, MO 64470.

Scrapbook

Stockton

The *Cedar County Republican* in Stockton is assembling a book about the May 4 tornado. It is scheduled for release in April.

Area residents have been invited to submit stories and photos for inclusion in the book. They're also invited to offer suggestions for the title.

California

The *California Democrat* celebrated its 145th birthday in November.

C.P. Anderson and Charles Groll published the first issue of the *Weekly California News* in November 1858.

Nearly every issue of the newspaper has been archived.

St. Louis

Almost 800 guests helped honor the best of the local African-American business community during the Nov. 6 Salute To Excellence in Business luncheon at the Renaissance Grand Hotel.

The St. Louis American Foundation is a sponsor of the event, along with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and the Regional Chamber and Growth Association.

Entrepreneur Stedman Graham was the keynote speaker. His presentation focused on *The St. Louis American* newspaper and the example of excellence it sets for the African American community.

St. Louis

Dr. Donald Suggs, president and publisher of *The St. Louis American*, was one of four prominent business leaders honored as "Pillars of the Community" at the Centennial Celebration Dinner for The Wesley House.

The dinner was held Nov. 20 at the Missouri Athletic Club in downtown St. Louis.

The Wesley House, named for Methodist preacher John Wesley (1701-1791), began in 1903 as a settlement house to meet social challenges through civic leadership, resources and opportunities.

The agency became a stabilizing force of North St. Louis and served as a com-

munity center for youth service clubs and athletic leagues throughout the neighborhood.

Belton

The Journal newspaper has moved into a new office building, the Parrish Professional Building, at 618 North Scott.

Bolivar

The *Herald-Free Press* asked readers to submit their Christmas memories for publication.

Stories could be about one of four topics: Best Christmas memory; favorite Christmas ornament and what makes it special; best Christmas gift you ever received; Christmas bloopers.

Photos were accepted, too.

The weekly partnered with the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch in Brighton for its Share the Joy of Christmas campaign. Most of the facility's 76 residents were at the ranch on Christmas Day because they have no other place to go.

The campaign hoped to provide two clothing items and something fun for each of the boys. The paper printed a "wish list" and posted it on its website.

St. Joseph

The Platte Purchase Publishers, a division of the St. Joseph Museum Inc., will publish a book by J. Marshall White, a reporter for the *St. Joseph News-Press* and a local historian.

"Rare and Scarce Saint Joseph Books, Pamphlets, and Music" is the outgrowth

of more than 30 years of book collecting and study by Mr. White.

Rolla

A *Rolla Daily News* route driver was injured and her 4-year-old son was killed in a car accident in November. Susan Funke was returning home after delivering her route of about 250 papers.

Funke was thrown from her car and suffered neck and other injuries. She was airlifted to a St. Louis hospital.

Clayton, the young victim, accompanied his parents to the newspaper office nearly every day. His father, Kenny Funke, also is a route driver. He was on his route when the accident occurred.

St. Louis

Readers of the Early Edition of the *Sunday Post-Dispatch* saw a bolder, more dramatic front page beginning in November.

The new design directs readers to the best stories in the paper. The Early Edition can be purchased at single-copy outlets on Saturday.

It contains all of the features of the later Sunday editions, but it doesn't have the late-breaking news and sports.

Cassville

In "Big War, Small Town," former Cassville resident Howard Ray Rowland chronicles the changes World War II brought about in his hometown.

Rowland spend his boyhood days from 1937 through 1946 in Cassville. His account is based on his memories and conversations with longtime Cassville residents and is supported by information found in articles from the *Cass-*

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ville Democrat and Cassville Republican.

Rowland is a former reporter for the *Springfield News-Leader* and editor of newspapers in Seymour, Lamar and Monett. Most of his career he spent at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota as public relations director and later as a professor of mass communications.

Noel

McDonald County Newspapers made Christmas brighter for 10 area families with an "It's Better to Give" program.

Stories about each of the families were printed in the papers beginning in November.

Readers were invited to buy gifts for the families or contribute cash to the project.

Louisiana

The *Louisiana Press-Journal*, the *Bowling Green Times* and the Northeast Community Action Corp. joined to gather items and cash contributions for area families during the holidays.

The newspapers listed the families to be helped and assisted with collection of gifts.

Joplin

Members of the Moscow Ballet performed "The Great Russian Nutcracker" at Memorial Hall in Joplin in November. Proceeds from the performance will benefit students and teachers through *The Joplin Globe's* Newspaper In Education program.

A similar performance was held Nov. 24 in St. Joseph to benefit the *News-Press* NIE program.

Jefferson City

Gerald Tritz, editor of the Sunday *News Tribune* and editor of "Escape," a weekly entertainment guide, was married early in 2003 to Deborah Kleindienst.

Tritz is the son of Judy Tritz, Sierra Vista, N.M., recently retired editor of the *Kirksville Daily Express*.

St. Louis

Pulitzer Inc., owner of the *Post-Dispatch* and the Suburban Journals, completed the buyout of five independent distributors on Dec. 1.

Those purchases follow at least one

Linn County daily, weekly merge

Beginning in January, *The Daily News-Bulletin* of Brookfield and *The Marceline Press*, a weekly, joined to create a new three-times-a-week publication, *Linn County Leader*.

The Daily
NEWS-BULLETIN

The *Leader* is being published Monday, Wednesday and Friday with a staff led by Kerry Beaver, former general manager of *The Press*. Rod Dixon, publisher of the Brookfield and Chillicothe newspapers, is publisher of the new *Leader*.

Editors Greg Orear and Bryan Day lead the newsroom.

The papers are owned by Liberty Group Publishing Co., Northbrook, Ill. *The Press* is in its 38th year, *The Daily News Bulletin* in its 125th.

Newspaper offices will remain open in Marceline and Brookfield. No changes are expected in the operation of the company's *show-me shopper*.

Marceline and Brookfield are in Linn County in north central Missouri. □

The Marceline
Press

buyout in October and two in November, the *St. Louis Business Journal* reported.

This round of buyouts gave the company control of more than 75 percent of the paper's single-copy routes by the end of the year, the *Business Journal* reported.

Hannibal

The *Courier-Post* ran profiles of 56 families for this year's Good Tidings assistance program.

Residents adopt the families to see that their needs are met through the holiday season.

Maryville

The *Daily Forum* held a benefit Dec. 13 to raise funds to help with the treatment for reporter Amanda Duty, 22, who was diagnosed recently with cancer.

Activities included a dance, pizza buffet, miniature golf, bake sale and silent auction.

Kansas City

Townsend Communications, which owns the *Dispatch Tribune* and the *Liberty Tribune*, has entered a partnership with Henry Wurst Inc. to consolidate some of its commercial printing operations into Wurst's North Kansas City plant.

"The Townsend family and the Wurst family have enjoyed a long association dating back to 1967, when my father purchased the *Liberty Tribune* newspaper from Henry Wurst," said Guy Townsend, president and publisher of Townsend Communications.

Clinton

The Henry County Sheriff's Department recognized *The Clinton Daily Democrat* as the Henry County Business of the Year for support of law enforcement.

Kathy Miles accepted a plaque for the newspaper.

Jefferson City

The *News Tribune* held a Christmas party for 56 disadvantaged children Dec. 7 at the Capital Ritz Banquet Center.

Newspaper employees baked cookies and helped at the party. Each child received a gift from Santa Claus.

St. Louis

The *North County Journal* held its first Coat and Can Drive this year to benefit the Salvation Army's Toy Town. New and slightly used winter coats and non-perishable food items were collected.

Florissant Cleaners Inc. donated cleaning of all of the donated coats. □



Lunching with legislators

Missouri Press and publishers have been hosting small luncheons with legislators around the state in the past couple of months. Jack Whitaker, center, publisher of the *Hannibal Courier-Post*, was the host for this luncheon at Hannibal Country Club. The legislators attending were Rep. Steve Hobbs, R-Mexico, and Sen. John Cauthorn,

R-Mexico, left; Rep. Rachel Bringer, D-Palmyra, and Rep. Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, right. Others attending were Doug Crews, MPA, right; *Courier-Post* reporter Danny Henley, right; and with their backs to the camera Jody Winegar and Sean Gallagher, with the lobbying firm Harness and Gallagher, which represents MPA.

Sunshine Law update to be sought

A Columbia lawmaker said he will introduce legislation aimed at closing potential electronic loopholes in Missouri's Sunshine Law.

Rep. Jeff Harris, D-Columbia, made the announcement at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, where he was joined by Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon. They said their idea is to provide a "technology upgrade" to the Open Meetings and Records law.

Dec. 1 was the first opportunity for lawmakers to pre-file bills. Harris issued a news release that outlined four goals for the bill:

- Require that e-mail correspondence between a majority of the members of a public body be transmitted to the custodian of records of that public body and made available to the public.
- Prohibit voting on public business

through a "phone tree" or "e-mail tree."

- Allow electronic responses to records requests.

- Require electronic notice of any "virtual meetings" that take place over the internet.

"This is a bill that is intended to preserve one of our shared values and hallmarks of democracy, and that is open government," Harris said. "Open government is good government, but to maintain open government and ensure the public's access to the business of government, we have to upgrade our Sunshine Law."

MU's journalism school is nationally recognized and is home to the Freedom of Information Center. Charles Davis, executive director of the center, praised the effort to strengthen the Sunshine Law.

"We get calls from all over the country from citizens, from reporters, from others that are seeking access to governmental records, and one of the fundamental issues facing them day in, day out is the move from paper-based files to electronic files," he said.

Nixon said his office gets lots of complaints about violations of the law and that a lack of specificity in the statute has posed some "unanswerable questions." While he didn't cite specific examples, Nixon said one scenario that he's hoping to head off is the possibility of elected officials meeting in electronic chat rooms to discuss policy before a vote.

"It's pretty simple, if you have a secure website and you get on and say, 'How are you going to vote on this tonight, fellow councilman?'" Nixon said.

—*Columbia Missourian* □

Paper's 125th anniversary issue features Journalism School dean

The 125th Anniversary Edition of the *Mount Pleasant* (Iowa) *News* carried a feature story about Dean Mills, dean of the Missouri School of Journalism.

Mills grew up in Mt. Pleasant and got his start in newspapering at the *News*. As a 15-year-old high school student he earned \$25 a week doing the darkroom work and writing news and features.

One anecdote in the feature story recounts the B his freshman English teacher gave Mills because his prose was "too purple" and he needed to write "more concisely." He made those changes and brought the grade up to an A.

Later, while home from the University of Iowa, Mills reminded Mrs. Clark that she'd told him his language was too flowery, but that he now was editor of *The Daily Iowan*.

"Well," Mrs. Clark replied, "you must have deflowered it."

The story recounts Mills' career after he earned degrees in journalism and Russian from the University of Iowa and then a master's degree at Michigan and a Ph.D from the University of Illinois. He became the Moscow bureau chief for the *Baltimore Sun*.

Mills began his academic career on his return and worked at a number of universities before becoming dean of the Missouri School of Journalism.

The feature story was illustrated with a photo of Mills speaking at the September dedication of the bust of the Journalism School's first dean, Walter Williams, in Boonville. That photo was taken by Jim Sterling, a professor at the J School. □

Pulitzer launches 'St. Louis At Work' recruitment website

St. Louis At Work, the Pulitzer company's recruitment ad website, was re-launched Dec. 2 with more features to match local jobs with local people.

The site integrates the recruitment advertising of the *Post-Dispatch*, the *Suburban Journals* and *STLtoday.com*, all properties of Pulitzer Publishing.

Job seekers enter their preferences into an electronic database on *stlouisatwork.com*. The site then emails job listings posted by area employers to the job seekers who match the qualifications of the jobs.

"It still starts with the newspaper classifieds," said Terrie Robbins, general manager of *STLtoday.com*, "but from there we do the recruiting work by taking those jobs and actively matching them with the over 90,000 prospective candidates online." □



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On the Move

Buffalo

Denelle Spear, editor of the *Buffalo Reflex* for the past year, has been named editor/general manager of the weekly, according to publisher Dave Berry. This change puts her in charge of the entire staff.

"We have allowed the newspaper to operate without a general manager for the past year," Berry says. "Management has been by committee.

Spear joined the staff last December when Jim Hamilton left for another job.



Denelle Spear gets expanded role in Buffalo.

per business and our company," Publisher Dave Berry said. "This is the best we could have hoped for after learning of



Judy Kallenbach joining family business.

Judy's decision to retire after 25 years with the company." Current publisher Dave Berry joined the *Herald-Free Press* as editor in 1977 when Hamilton returned to Southwest Missouri State University for graduate studies. Kallenbach was promoted to editor in 1984 when Berry became managing editor and later publisher. Now the circle is complete with Hamilton replacing Kallenbach.

Hamilton joined the *Buffalo Reflex* as its editor in August 1978.

Community Publishers Inc. purchased the Bolivar, Buffalo and Stockton newspapers, along with Missouri ColorWeb Printers, in February 1999. Publications in Marshfield, Rogersville, Ozark and Nixa were added over the next two years, and CPI has reached an agreement to add *The Republic Monitor* to the group as of Jan. 5. The company also owns papers in northwest Arkansas. Berry is publisher of the Missouri newspapers and a vice president of CPI. Hamilton is married to the former Martha Drown, formerly of Bolivar. She teaches school in Buffalo.

A reception was to be held for readers to bid farewell to Kallenbach and to greet



Ted Lawrence has TV sports experience.

Hamilton.

Community Publishers Inc. also has brought Ted Lawrence on board as advertising and marketing director.

Lawrence has experience at newspapers in Moline and Quincy, Ill., and as a self-employed advertising consultant. He has moved with his family from Quincy to Springfield.

Lawrence also has play-by-play sports broadcasting experience, including appearances on FoxSports and ESPN and ESPN2.

Lawrence succeeds Beth Chism, who has chosen to become an advertising consultant.



Toby Carrig worked for Journals earlier.

St. Louis

Toby Carrig has been named managing editor of the Suburban Journals of Jefferson County.

Carrig worked for the Journals from 1988 until 2002. He re-joined the Journals in August after working as sports editor of

The Beaumont Enterprise in Texas.

He succeeds John Winkelman, who resigned.

Bob Donnelly Jr. was named publisher of the Journals in Jefferson County on Sept. 5. He had been advertising manager.



Bob Donnelly previously was ad manager.

Doniphan

Mike Buhler, sports editor of the *Prospect News*, has left the weekly to continue his education.

Belton

Adam Droegemueller has joined the staff of *The Star-Herald* in Belton.

A graduate of Northwest Missouri State with a degree in broadcast journal-

Bolivar

Jim Hamilton, news editor of the *Bolivar Herald-Free Press* 28 years ago, returned to the newspaper as its editor/general manager Jan. 1. He previously was managing editor of *Springfield! Magazine* for most of 2003 after being at the helm of the *Buffalo Reflex* the previous 24 years.

Hamilton succeeds Judy Kallenbach, who on Nov. 26 announced her retirement from the newspaper business, effective at the end of 2003 or when a replacement was ready to take over. She has joined a family-owned business, A-1 Tool, and looks forward to having more time with her children and grandchildren.

"I'm pleased that we are fortunate enough to get Jim back into the newspa-



Jim Hamilton has been in this place before.

CPI buys *Republic Monitor*

Community Publishers, Inc., will add *The Republic Monitor* to its family of newspapers it publishes in southwest Missouri.

The company also has a new advertising and marketing director.

CPI President Steve Trolinger said the company has entered into an agreement

ism, Droegemueller has worked the previous three years for a radio station in Jefferson City.

He is a native of Greenfield, Iowa.

St. Joseph

Heather Ziph has been hired by the *St. Joseph News-Press* as a commercial digital production specialist in the advertising department.

She has a bachelor's degree from Missouri Western State College and previously worked as a graphic designer for Oxley Printing. □

to buy *The Monitor* as of Jan. 5. The company already publishes newspapers in Stockton, Bolivar, Buffalo, Marshfield, Rogersville/Fordland, Ozark and Nixa.

The pending purchase is from Sumner Newspapers, Inc., Darrell Sumner, president, which will continue to publish the *Aurora Advertiser* and papers in Oklahoma and Kansas.

The Monitor has served the western Greene County community of Republic for 109 years. It has paid circulation of more than 3,000.

CPI officials said they do not expect any immediate changes to the paper, other than moving its printing to the company's commercial printing division, Missouri Color Web, in Springfield. The paper was being printed in Aurora.

Greg White will continue as general manager of *The Monitor*.

CPI now has a ring of weekly newspapers, with total circulation of more than 37,000, around Springfield.



MPA's 2003 president, Dave Berry, is CPI's vice president for Missouri publications. He works out of Bolivar.

Ted Lawrence is the other new addition to CPI. He is the advertising and marketing director as of Dec. 3. The greater amount of his experience has been with newspapers in Moline and Quincy, Ill., and as a self-employed advertising consultant. He succeeds Beth Chism, who has opted to become a consultant, offering to newspapers across the country an advertising promotion package she developed for CPI newspapers over the past two years. □

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NNA will recognize best ads with separate contest in 2004

COLUMBIA — In order to recognize the importance of advertising in community newspapers and the creativity and quality of these ads, the National Newspaper Association is initiating a Best of Advertising contest that will highlight and reward the efforts of newspaper ad reps and graphic designers.

Several categories from the Better Newspaper Contest have been moved to the Best of Advertising Contest, in addition to new categories being added.

Running concurrently with NNA's Better Newspaper Contest in 2004, the new ad contest will honor ads in the following categories:

Best Single Ad Idea; Best Series Ad Idea; Best Section or Edition Dedicated to Sales Promotion; Best Use of Ad Color; Best Multiple Advertiser Section; Best Classified Section; Best Use of Local Photography in Ads; Best Newspaper

Promotion; Best Small-Page Ad and Best Idea.

The contest is open to all NNA member newspapers in good standing.

The call for entries and rules for the contest will appear in the January and February issues of *Publishers Auxiliary* and will be available on NNA's website after Jan 4.

Several circulation divisions in the 2004 Better Newspaper Contest are revised, and a new open category, Obituary Writing, has been added.

The Best of Newspapers in Education Contest, entering its second year, will have a revised entry structure, allowing for both NNA members and non-members to participate in 2004, a first for NNA.

For more information e-mail to contest@nna.org, or telephone (573) 882-5800. □

Lifestyles competition now accepting entries

The Missouri Lifestyle Journalism Program, formerly known as Penny-Missouri, is now accepting entries for its 2004 contest.

The program is sponsored and administered by the Missouri School of Journalism.

This is the oldest and best known feature writing and editing competition in American newspapering. Each year trophies and prize money totaling \$18,000 are awarded to writers, editors and newspapers.

You can find information about the contest and entry forms at <http://journalism.missouri.edu/affiliations/lifestylejournalism/entry.html>. □

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Free 1-day business journalism workshop March 2 in St. Louis

Reynolds Center, API sponsoring 3-session training

A free one-day business journalism workshop will be held March 2 in St. Louis. It is open not only to business journalists, but to journalists covering other beats who wish to learn more about business.

The "High Intensity Business Journalism" program covers critical areas such as balance sheets, SEC filings, private companies and finding business in all beats.

This workshop is sponsored by the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism at the American Press Institute in Reston, Va., and will be hosted by *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. It will be held at *The Post-Dispatch*, 900 N. Tucker Blvd.

Register for the workshop by going online at americanpressinstitute.org/biz-journalism, or contact Angela Coyle, Reynolds Project Coordinator, at (703)

715-3332.

This is the first of three one-day workshops to be held at this location during 2004. Those who attend all three will receive a Certificate of Completion from the Reynolds Center.

The Reynolds Center is funded by a grant from the Las Vegas-Nevada based Donald W. Reynolds Foundation. It will hold 60 one-day workshops around the country in 2004 and in February will launch the BusinessJournalism.org website specifically for business journalists.

The March 2 workshop will begin with sign-in and coffee reception at 8:30 a.m. It will adjourn at 4:30.

The next two workshops will increase in complexity. Workshops are open to all journalists who wish to know more when reporting business issues in other beats. □

Kansas Press hires new executive director

Longtime Kansas newspaper editor and publisher Doug Anstaett has been named executive director of Kansas Press Association. He succeeds Jeff Burkhead, who resigned in September.

Anstaett is a 1973 graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in journalism and mass communication. He has worked at a number of newspapers, including the *Nevada Daily Mail*.

He most recently was editorial page editor of *The Topeka Capital-Journal*, a position he assumed in July after 16 years as editor and publisher of *The Newton Kansan*. He was president of the KPA board of directors in 2001-02.

Anstaett and his wife, Lucinda, have two grown daughters. □



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Post-Dispatch begins 125th year

4-section, 100-page supplement retells big stories paper has covered

From a story
By Dale Singer

Published: Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Since the *Post-Dispatch* began publication 125 years ago today, the language of the news business has changed, and the technology has evolved. But the impulse behind it all has remained the same — publish the latest, most accurate news for and about St. Louis. And stir things up when you need to.

Consider, for example, these classic quotations from a 1901 conversation with Joseph Pulitzer on how the newspaper should dive beneath the surface of events.

“Don’t echo flapdoodle - expose it.

“Don’t bow to shams and humbugs - puncture them.”

That attitude carries forward to today, *Post-Dispatch* editor Ellen Soeteber said.

“The best journalists I know went into the business because they wanted to make a difference. The *Post-Dispatch* has truly made a difference for St. Louis. That’s why so many of us are so proud to work here.”

Not that everything is the same, of course. In the first Joseph Pulitzer’s day, when cities had more newspapers than they have now, the competition was fierce for each to expose flapdoodle, puncture humbug and carve out a niche for itself. Today, Soeteber said, the only daily newspaper in town has a special responsibility.

“We have to be nonpartisan, be balanced and cover as much of the region as we can,” Soeteber said. “We have to take a larger view.”

Pulitzer’s view of St. Louis began when he moved here from New York after the Civil War. He had come to this country from his native Hungary, recruited by a bounty hunter to fight for the Union.

After a flirtation with the law, he moved into journalism, first as a reporter with a German-language paper, then as

owner and editor of the newly merged *Post* and *Dispatch*.

Its first edition — 4,020 copies, four pages each — appeared on Dec. 12, 1878. That first front page was split in half, with ads down the left-hand side and international, national and local news on the right.

Since that time, succeeding generations of Pulitzers have guided the newspaper and the company that has grown up around it.

The newspaper became famous for exposing corruption. It won 17 Pulitzer Prizes, including a record five gold medals for public service.

The company was a St. Louis pioneer first in radio, then in television before selling off its broadcast properties to concentrate on newspapers and their websites, including *STLtoday.com* in St. Louis.

The company has gone public and has strengthened its investment here by buying the *Suburban Journals*, and it has expanded its holdings with newspapers in other cities.

But presenting news through a local prism remains the *Post-Dispatch* focus, and over the last 125 years it has had some great St. Louis stories to tell.

The newspaper campaigned to clean up smoke pollution in St. Louis, which was widely considered to have the filthiest air in America. The successful effort won the *Post-Dispatch* its second Pulitzer Prize gold medal for public service, in 1941.

That story and more were among the 125 tales told in a four-section retrospective included in the Sunday, Dec. 14, *Post-Dispatch*.

The Weatherbird has commented on it all since 1901.

Also marking the anniversary was an exhibit at the Missouri History Museum that was to run through Jan. 3. It featured 25 historical moments that appeared in the newspaper.

The *Post-Dispatch* marked its anniversary Dec. 12, recalling when Joseph Pulitzer took over as owner and editor of a newly merged operation.

Joseph Pulitzer Jr., the third member of his family to serve as editor and publisher of the *Post-Dispatch*, died in 1993. His widow, Emily Rauh

Pulitzer, is the company’s largest stockholder and the only member of the family still living in St. Louis.

“I think the *Post-Dispatch* is serving this community today as well as it ever has,” she said. “I’m very proud of that. I

think there’s room for improvement, as there always is, and that’s the direction we’re heading.”

Michael E. Pulitzer, the former chief executive of Pu-

litzer Inc. who remains board chairman and a senior adviser to the company, said that while it’s not clear what’s coming over the next several years, no technological or market changes would change the principles or the success of the *Post-Dispatch*.

“Good journalism is good business,” he said.

Publisher Terrance C.Z. Egger said the newspaper continues to serve its community with solid journalism and be a good corporate citizen. The anniversary, he added, “is a testament to the importance of the work we do. It shows that what we do matters if it is done well, and the challenge will be to continue to do that job well. It’s a special responsibility and a humbling responsibility.” □



Whipples selling *The Kearney Courier* to News-Press Co.

After more than 70 years under the ownership of the Whipple family, *The Kearney Courier* is being sold to the News-Press & Gazette Co., St. Joseph.

After the sale early this year, former owners Dick Whipple and Kathy Whipple will continue to work for the News Press & Gazette. Kathy remains publisher of *The Courier*. Dick is a regional coordinator for the company, which owns the *St. Joseph News-Press*, the *Smithville Herald* and newspapers in Atchison and Hia-watha, Kan. It also publishes a bi-weekly called *Green Acres* and owns cable television properties in Missouri, Arizona and California, and radio and TV stations in Texas, Arizona, California and Oregon.

No other staff changes are anticipated.

Kathy Whipple said a redesign project that already was in the works will be completed.

The *News-Press* has printed *The Courier* for several years.

Although falling just shy of winning Gold Cups on several occasions, *The Courier* has won a number of General Excellence plaques and many other first-place awards in the Missouri Press Better Newspaper Contest. □

Union authorizes strike unless deal with *Post-Dispatch* reached

Members of the union that represents about 600 *Post-Dispatch* newsroom, advertising and circulation workers have authorized leaders to use any action necessary, including a strike, to get an acceptable contract.

St. Louis Newspaper Guild members voted 353-15 Dec. 7 to give union officials the power to call for boycott campaigns or a work stoppage if negotiations reach an impasse.

Negotiators for the *Post-Dispatch* said they would offer a new proposal late in December.

The previous contract expired Jan. 9, but it contains a clause that keeps its provisions in force until a replacement is

Raytown publisher launches new paper in Lee's Summit

Randy Battagler, publisher of the *Raytown Post*, in November launched the *Lee's Summit Post-Tribune*. Jay Fielder is the editor.

Battagler and his wife, Amy, bought the *Raytown Post* from Lee Gray in August 2002. They converted it from a tabloid to a color broadsheet.

Battagler and Fielder have extensive newspaper backgrounds. Both are natives of the Kansas City region. The two were competitors in Texas a few years ago. Fielder worked for the *Lewisville News*, and Battagler published the *Lewisville Leader*.

Battagler started his newspaper career while in high school working at *The Richmond News*. He later worked for the *Oak Grove Banner* and the *Town and Country Shopper News*.

Battagler became publisher of the *Liberty Shopper News*, the *Gladstone Shopper News* and the *Platte County Gazette*.

From there he became publisher of the

Nevada Daily Mail.

Before buying the *Raytown Post*, Battagler was publisher of DFW Community Newspapers in the Dallas metro area.

Fielder, who has been with the *Raytown Post* for a year, lives in Lee's Summit with his wife,



Melanie, and their son, Grant. He comes from Texas, where he worked for the *Lewisville News*, the *Denton Record-Chronicle* and the *Arlington Morning News*.

Fielder is the author of "Reflections: A Folklore History of Lewisville, Texas."

The *Post-Tribune* office is at 1024-A Jib Court, just north of Woods Chapel Road on the northbound access road of I-470. □

Star hepatitis C story floods clinics with calls

Response to a November series in *The Kansas City Star* about Hepatitis C was so overwhelming that one health clinic had to install a second phone line.

Calls spiked after *The Star* ran a series about the disease and the federal government's failure to educate the public about it.

More than four million Americans are infected with the disease each year, and at least 10,000 people each year die from it, according to health officials.

Symptoms often do not appear for decades, and by the time the virus is diagnosed, it can be too late for some patients to be treated effectively.

A bill to educate the public about Hepatitis C, the most common blood-borne disease in the country, has been introduced in Congress. It calls for spending up to \$90 million a year to prevent and control the virus.

A lack of public concern about the disease may doom the bill.

—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch* □

—from an AP report □

Publisher compiles book of old postcards of K.C.

The *Northeast News* of Kansas City has published a book titled “Historic Postcards of Old Kansas City” compiled by the paper’s publisher, Michael Bushnell.

Bushnell writes a weekly postcard column in *The Northeast News*, a 71-year-old weekly serving the northeast area of the city.

“We publish a different postcard of old Kansas City every week,” Bushnell said. “It’s an excellent way to offer modern-day readers a glimpse of what life was like in the early 1900s here in Kansas City.”



The book contains more than 60 images of Kansas City from around the turn of the 20th century as well as a brief description of the card and any personal message that was written on

the back.

Images on the postcards include Union Station around 1921, the West Bottoms around 1908 and a street car at Walnut and 8th Street around 1909.

The paperback book retails for \$16.95 and is available at Kansas City area retailers and at the newspaper office. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Cliff Drive State Scenic Byway Corridor Management Committee, a group dedicated to preservation of the scenic byway in Historic Northeast Kansas City. □

Raise NIE money by selling book

The Missouri Press Foundation and MPA member newspapers can raise funds for Newspapers In Education by selling the book “Learning, Earning and Giving Back” to their readers.

Writer Jim Davidson divides a person’s life into three parts: The Learning Years; The Earning Years; and The Giving Back Years. He explores these periods of life through stories, ideas and concepts that will lift your spirits.

The 224-page book will give you hope and encouragement to face an unstable and uncertain world.

In a demonstration of what the “Giving Back” years are all about, Davidson is donating \$9 of every \$15.95 book sold.

The local newspaper that sells the book will receive \$6 to be used in one of three ways: 1) Its Newspaper In Education program; 2) another program organized and operated by the newspaper; or, 3) a community project the newspaper supports.

The other \$3 of Davidson’s donation will be given to Missouri Press Foundation to provide journalism scholarships to Missouri students.

For information about ordering books to sell through your newspaper, contact MPA or go to mopress.com. □

Another ‘security’ exception proposed

JEFFERSON CITY (AP) — Missouri’s homeland security adviser is proposing a new exception to the state’s open records law that would keep secret any security information provided by private entities to state or local governments.

Security Adviser Tim Daniel says the proposal would provide the same secrecy already afforded to government security plans or to private security plans that are shared with the federal Department of Homeland Security.

The proposal is expected to be considered during the legislative session that starts Jan. 7.

Jean Maneke, Missouri Press Association’s legal hotline adviser and a Sunshine

Law expert, expressed concern about adding another exception to the open records law.

The state’s open records law applies only to governmental bodies, not to businesses and other private entities. But Daniel said some documents voluntarily provided by businesses to the state currently could be shared with the public under the Sunshine Law.

What Daniel wants to keep secret are documents detailing security plans of businesses such as AmerenUE’s Callaway Nuclear Plant near Fulton, or any materials describing the security used.

If the public had access to the information, “it would reveal or provide clues that a bad guy could use to defeat that

technology,” he said.

The state is not currently collecting security information from potential terrorist targets, but it might do so during a terrorist attack or natural disaster, Daniel said.

In response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Legislature added three Sunshine Law exceptions in 2002. Those closed information about government security systems and structural plans; government computer and telecommunications operations that could lead to authorized access or disruptions; and government credit card numbers, personal identification numbers and access codes used in electronic transactions. □

Don't give advice on liquor advertising

Publications reveal attitude on openness

January is here and with it comes the start of the legislative session.

Your press association will have begun work encouraging the passage of a new Sunshine Law bill through the Legislature, seeking to further tinker with some of the ongoing problems the public has with access to public records.

I encourage you to corner your state legislators when you have the chance (as well as all those candidates you'll be seeing running for statewide office) and remind them of how important this law is to you and how desperately we need these changes.

The MPA staff will be sending out further information once we have a bill number and you'll be able to see the proposed changes in print, so you'll have something to refer to when you talk to these representatives.

When the message comes from you, it means so much more to these representatives. You are their constituents. Your opinion matters. Please take every opportunity to spread the word this spring, because passage of these amendments is never easy.

Meanwhile, I want to share with you some tidbits from some of the publications that cross my desk. I am fortunate, I suppose, to have the opportunity to read some of the materials being distributed to your municipal officials by the associations in the state that represent them.

I always am drawn by the articles that talk with these officials about Sunshine Law matters. It is always especially interesting to me to consider the perspective behind the writing.

Two perfect examples of the dichoto-

my of these viewpoints have crossed my desk in recent months. In December in the Missouri Municipal Review, Dave Rosenberg, a county official in the state of California, writes about parliamentary procedures. At the end of his thoughtful

piece, he points out three "special rules," as he terms them, that apply to each agenda item, he says. These rules are:
RULE 1: Tell the public what the body will be doing.

RULE 2: Keep the public informed while the body is do-

ing it.

RULE 3 When the body has acted, tell the public what the body did.

And he concludes, "Public input is essential to a healthy democracy and community participation in public meetings is an important element of that input."

You might want to ask your local public officials if they've read this article and mention the conclusion to them.

These are wise words for public officials to take to heart. If we had more public officials following this line, we'd have less difficulties with Sunshine Law issues.

Of course, there's always someone taking the other perspective. Patrick Cronan, who writes what he himself calls "drivel" each month to municipal attorneys across the state, is always happy to point out ways public officials can skirt the Sunshine Law.

Not long ago, he passed along to his readers that the exceptions added to the Sunshine Law in 2002 (exceptions 18, 19 and 20, dealing with security issues), were written very broadly. While acknowledging that the Sunshine Law specifically instructs that the exceptions to the law are to be "strictly construed," he suggests that "maybe you can fool the

public and even a judge or two" by showing them the language in these exceptions.

In short, when the representatives of the press association argued to those seeking to pass these exceptions that the language was overly broad and vague, we were right. And further, some city attorneys (at least one we know of) apparently encourage attempting to fool judges, regardless of the fact that lawyers are mandated pursuant to the Rules of Professional Conduct to not make a false statement of material fact or law to the judiciary.

Attitude is everything, right?

Finally, let me clarify again an issue that generates regular calls to the hotline in the area of advertising.

What is permitted and not permitted in terms of advertising prices for the sale of liquor by the drink? Missouri does not have state statutes governing this issue. Rather, it is governed by The Code of State Regulations. Those regs are changed on a regular basis.

As your hotline attorney, my focus is on statutes that deal with Sunshine Law and libel and related issues, and I don't generally stay current on all the laws that relate to the liquor industry. I will tell you that there is no penalty that is imposed upon a newspaper for any advertisement it runs relating to the price of liquor by the drink. However, your advertiser can incur fines and penalties if he runs an ad that violates these state regulations.

Therefore, you do not want to be giving advice to your advertisers about what they can and cannot run. If you do, you risk being blamed if they are found to have violated the state regulations. You could end up being sued for damages.

That is why, when you call the hotline, I suggest you send your advertiser to consult with his attorney. Tell him you will run whatever he provides to you and know that no liability will attach to the newspaper. But leave it up to him and to his attorneys as to what he can and cannot run.

Federal postal regulations prohibit mailing of notices of games of chance unless they are for a not-for-profit organization and permitted by state law, therefore running such ads is permissible. □



Jean Maneke
MPA
Legal Hotline
Counselor
(816) 753-9000
Fax (816) 753-9009

Missouri NIE had a good year

The first of January is one of my favorite times of the year, because it's a time of new beginnings. The end of December always inspires me to reflect on accomplishments of the past year and set fresh goals for the brand new year ahead.

Here are my picks for Top 10 Newspaper In Education Accomplishments of 2003.

10. Newspaper In Education Committee

Organized when we initiated our NIE efforts, this committee has remained a strong part of the success of our programs. This year about a dozen MPA members from newspapers large and small participated in our NIE Committee meetings.

The committee is open to any MPA member who would like to help guide our efforts to reach young readers. The committee meets twice each year. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Columbia.

9. Continued Partnerships

The heart of our Newspaper In Education efforts in Missouri has been part-

nerships with state and national organizations. The organizations we've worked with have provided the resources and expertise to help us use the newspaper to inform, educate and entertain young readers.

Missouri Geographic Alliance and The Missouri Bar have re-committed to our efforts each year and new supporters have joined, substantiating the value of the newspaper.



Dawn Kitchell is MPA's NIE coordinator. Contact her at (636) 390-2821; dawn.kitchell@sbcglobal.net

8. Tips for Parents: Setting the Foundation for Student Achievement

Missouri State Teachers Association (MSTA) worked with us to turn its excellent publication by the same name into a seven-part newspaper series. These quarter-page features are on our website for use at any time. They have no particular order and can be published individually or as a series. Many of the tips include the use of the newspaper at home.

7. Louisiana Purchase Series

We capitalized on two wonderful partnerships to create five Newspaper In Education features commemorating the Louisiana Purchase. Working with the

National Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Committee, we created four NIE features that explored "Native Americans" and "French and Spanish" and "Life in the Louisiana Territory," as well as "The Purchase."

And as part of our ongoing partnership with the Missouri Bar Association, we complemented the series with a look at the constitutionality of the Purchase. These features were a perfect segue into our fall Lewis and Clark projects.

6. Serial Stories

Our serial story project continues to grow. We introduced a Lewis & Clark story, "Here They Come," in the spring, making it our 13th Kay Hively serial for young readers. Another new story, "Black Thunder," based on the Tuskegee Airmen, will debut in January.

We retired "Hannah's Diary," our first story, in December, and based on reader feedback, are considering turning the story into a children's book. The board of directors of the Missouri Press Foundation encouraged us to expand our promotion of the serials, so we created an attractive brochure, printed notepads and have been advertising in various trade publications.

To date, 140 newspapers in 21 states have published one or more MPF serial stories, giving us a distribution of 389



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stories.

5. Newspaper In Education Week 2003 Package - Read To Your Kids

For years I've admired Jim Trelease's efforts to encourage parents to read with their children. After learning about his newspaper background, I e-mailed him and asked if he would be willing to help us in our Newspaper In Education efforts in Missouri.

The internet has an unbelievable way of putting people within reach. My plea got through and Jim wrote an essay which we packaged into an attractive half-page feature.

Janese Heavin, then of the *St. James Leader-Journal*, Judy Kallenbach of the *Bolivar Herald-Free Press*, and Kevin Horrihan of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* contributed excellent editorials, and John Darkow of the *Columbia Daily Tribune* donated a fabulous editorial cartoon — all supporting NIE.

It was an awesome package and is still available for MPA newspapers to use at any time. It can be found on our website by linking to NIE and then to Newspa-

per Features.

4. Teacher Ambassador Scholarship Project

After growing up in Texas, Missouri didn't seem like a very big state — until I tried to reach across it to help 292 Missouri newspapers with Newspaper In Education. I truly believe this project is the best way to grow NIE programs across the state.

The teachers who attend our University of Missouri course, "The Living Textbook: Integrating the Newspaper into the K-12 Curriculum," return to their communities experts in NIE and enthused about being ambassadors for their community newspapers. We trained 19 ambassadors last summer, and the 2004 course information is on our website.

3. Best State or Regional NIE Organization Award from the Newspaper Association of America

While it's most important to be valued by those you work for and with, this award shined a light on the tremendous Newspaper In Education efforts under-

way in Missouri.

2. www.mopress.com

We've created a lot of great Newspaper In Education material for Missouri's newspapers over the past three years. The newly designed MPA website has made all of this information easily accessible by our member newspapers.

And we've saved time and money distributing this information electronically. The website also has allowed us to better market our serial stories nationally.

1. Our Lewis & Clark projects

Working with Missouri Historical Society, we created some truly outstanding material that I'm proud to say will give readers in Missouri and across the nation a greater understanding of this historic event and how it impacted our nation 200 years ago — and how those same themes continue to impact our lives today.

We have begun selling the tabloid nationally, but it and the 8-part series are still available at no cost to Missouri newspapers. The commemoration continues through 2006. □

• "It's quick, easy and simple." "Everybody loves it!" "Images download fast." •

Production time has been cut down considerably.

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• "What took hours are now minutes." "It helps me with ideas I can use." •

"It makes my reps more efficient on the road."

Communities suffer if we don't participate

It works! Download salvages digital photos

If you've been paying attention, you'll start writing 2004 on checks in another week or two. (It will take a bit longer than that for a few. Please bear with us. We'll catch on.)

Never again in time will there be a year 2003. Whether that's happy or sad news depends upon your point of view. The fact remains, another year has passed into history; another number has been retired.

We can always come up with another number, though, and just as one number follows another, Missouri Press Association has a new leader.

Gary Sosniecki of Vandalia succeeded Dave Berry of Bolivar on Jan. 1.

Gary Sosniecki is the Association's 133rd president. He'll preside over his first MPA board meeting at the Northwest Missouri Press meeting in St. Joseph Jan. 15.

You can read about Sosniecki's newspaper career in the early pages of this magazine. He and his partner and wife Helen have been active members of MPA for many years.

During his term, Sosniecki hopes to set up a number of committees to begin planning for MPA's long-range future. He wants involvement from many more members on those committees.

Watch the magazine and bulletin for information on these committees, and expect a call from Sosniecki or a board member with an invitation to participate on one or more of them.

Sosniecki talks about some things that have become untrendy in the past few years — participation and involvement. If you haven't noticed a significant drop in involvement and participation in your

community, you aren't participating or involved.

This is a trend that should strike terror in publishers of newspapers, especially community newspapers.

The book "Bowling Alone" documented this trend a number of years ago.

While using the demise of once-robust bowling leagues as a focal point, the theme of the book is the increasing isolation of people from one another.

Almost everyone carries a telephone — even in their cars. Nearly everyone has access to the internet and email. We are more connected than ever before, but only "virtually." (That word "virtual" got popular with digital gadgets that create "virtual realities" for us.)

The question then is, if we are so connected, why is membership in the Kiwanis Club falling? Why are bowling leagues going out of business? Why are newspaper circulations declining?

People are indeed more connected than ever before, but they certainly are not more connected to their neighbors or their communities. Newspapers should take a big part in reversing that trend, for their own sakes if not for the good of their communities.

Good newspapers work hard to fill their pages with interesting information — advertising as well as news — about their communities. Here's the issue. People who don't care about their community and the people who live down the street won't buy a newspaper that's full of information about that community and

its inhabitants. Why would they?

Some communities don't suffer from this malady. Nine times out of 10 it's because civic leaders — including the newspaper — preach involvement and participation and are heavily involved themselves.

Involved people buy newspapers. That's just a theory, but it could be documented with a simple survey.

With that as a premise, and starting fresh this new year, what can your newspaper do to increase the involvement and participation of citizens in your community?

Here's a technical report to close on an upbeat note.

The Oct. 9 *MPA Bulletin* had an item about a software program that recovers

digital photos that don't want to be recognized. For one reason or another, a computer sometimes can't find photos on a flash card. That happened to me.

My computer wouldn't download photos I had taken for the stories about the

People who don't care about their community and the people who live down the street won't buy a newspaper that's full of information about that community and its inhabitants.

new MPA president. Remembering the *Bulletin* item about recovering digital photos, I contained my reaction to low-grade panic.

As instructed by the article, I went to datarescue.com on the internet, downloaded the software and got my pictures. It's a bit more involved than that and takes a bit longer, but not much on either count.

One great feature of the software is that you can download the program and see if it will recover your photos before you have to pay for it. If it works, you order the program. In a few minutes you receive by email a code to activate the program and get your pictures. The cost is \$29.95.

You don't have to get the program until you need it. Just remember that it's out there to help.

If any of you have found a technical tip that makes life easier, please share. □



MPA editor **Kent Ford** can be reached by email at kford@socket.net.

Nostalgia

January
1964
Missouri
Press News

January
1944
Missouri
Press News

✍ The *Vandalia Mail* office was destroyed by a fire Jan. 15 which began with an explosion under the *Mail* office apparently resulting from a gas leak. A furniture and undertaking company and a house adjoining the *Mail* office also were destroyed.

Glenn McIntire, publisher of the *Mail*, said the explosion occurred at about 1 o'clock in the afternoon. He and Miss Ada Waters, a staff member, were in the front office when the blast occurred. McIntire's right hand was cut and Miss Waters' hosiery was burned from her legs but she had no other serious injuries.

✍ Harry M. Fleenor is the new editor and publisher of the *Norborne Democrat-Leader*. Fleenor purchased the *Democrat-Leader* on Jan. 1 from George Clasen, Jr.

✍ The *Skidmore News* is now being published by Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Hofer. They bought the paper recently from Gilbert Lewis.

✍ *The Brunswicker*, published at Brunswick by Mrs. Hallie H. Clayton, began Volume 100 with the issue of Jan. 6. The Chariton County paper will be a centenarian in 1945.

✍ The *Metz Times* suspended publication this month. Mrs. Dryden Baze has been managing and editing the paper since her husband joined the Naval Reserve in September.

✍ An extra, telling of a fire in which a child was burned to death, was issued by the *Inter-City News*, Fairmount Station, Kansas City, on Jan. 13. It was the first extra in the history of the *News*, a weekly paper.

Stanley Fike, editor, wrote a front page editorial, which appeared in the extra and regular issue, urging that residents support an adequate fire service. The Inter-City fire department is closed because

the chief has been called to the army, leaving two fire trucks idle at the time of the fire.

✍ The *Sikeston Herald* sponsored a community project to provide Christmas dinner for more than 500 army air cadets stationed with the 309th Army Air Forces Flying Training Detachment at the Missouri Institute of Aeronautics in Sikeston.

More than 200 cadets were entertained in private homes and the others were given dinner at a hotel.

The *Herald* raised the necessary funds for the food served at the hotel and also remembered cadets confined to the hospital with flowers and cigarets as well as a Christmas dinner.

January
1954
Missouri
Press News

✍ The weekly *Steelville Ledger* was sold Jan. 7 to Ralph E. Kehr of Steelville and Nanson Munro of Cuba. Kehr is the publisher of the *Crawford Mirror* and *Cuba News and Review* and will combine the *Ledger* with those newspapers.

The former owners of the *Ledger*, Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Wills, are to join the staff of TV station KLIK, Jefferson City, which is scheduled to go on the air Jan. 31.

✍ Joseph R. Snyder, news editor and advertising manager of the Gallatin Publishing Co. since March 1952, has purchased an interest in the company and will be co-publisher along with W.M. "Scout" Harrison.

✍ The *Ozark County Times* has been purchased by J.W. Daniels of Gainesville, who had formerly been in partnership on the weekly paper. His former partner, Carl White, is now the publisher of the *Crane Chronicle* and the *Stone County News-Oracle*.

Watch the Calendar to keep up
with MPA activities.

✍ The *Ozark County Times*, Gainesville, recently held an open house to show off its new facilities and 500 persons signed the guest register. In addition to the regular staff, on hand to greet the visitors were some of the *Times'* 51 county correspondents.

The new building is constructed of steel and concrete blocks and is considered nearly fire proof. The old building was destroyed by fire Feb. 14, 1963.

To highlight the open house, Publisher Fred C. Robins held a dinner for the correspondents on the courthouse lawn.

✍ The *Belton Star-Herald*, owned by J.W. Brown Jr., has changed format to tabloid and from letterpress to offset production.

✍ "When I and the blessed wife first became members of the Missouri Press Association back in 1948, the year we became publishers which is to say we went in debt, the office of the president of the Association seemed to be a place of great honor and distinction. We were much impressed with the high priests of the profession who held the office ... and still are. They all seemed to be very successful, rich, big circulations, powerful in politics, drove Cadillacs, traveled extensively and wore \$200 suits, and bought a new font of mats every six months.

"After Oct. 26, 1963, when the nominating committee and members saw fit to install me as their president, I have an entirely new concept of MPA presidents. For a change you now have a president that is still in debt, runs two small circulation weeklies, is sneered at by politicians, drives a Ford, wears Curlee suits sold anywhere for \$49.95, and went off-set to get out of buying fonts of mats."

—MPA President Jac W. Zimmerman,
Willow Springs News □

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Post-Dispatch photographer wins

AP recognizes outstanding camera work at December meeting

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Photo-journalist Andrew Cutraro of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on Dec. 8 won the C.G. Wellington Memorial Sweepstakes Award in The Associated Press Missouri-Kansas Photo Competition for 2003 for his four-month photo coverage of the Iraq War.

The series ranged from preparations in the desert, to combat, to clean up. The judges, members of the photo staff of the *Omaha World-Herald*, said they were impressed with the strong photos and clean and direct presentation.

Cutraro, 30, has been on staff at the *Post-Dispatch* for five years. Previously, he was a freelance photographer in Chicago, Detroit, and Washington and attended Western Kentucky University.

Staff members of *The Kansas City Star* received three first-place awards, while Don Frazier of the *Southeast Missourian* in Cape Girardeau won two first-place awards. Sydney Brink of *The Sedalia Democrat* received four awards.

The winners, chosen from 678 entries from 22 newspapers, were announced at the annual meeting of publishers and editors of Missouri and Kansas AP member newspapers.

Newspapers competed in two divisions: Division A for papers serving cities with a population greater than 40,000, and Division B for newspapers serving cities with a population less than 40,000.

DIVISION A

NEWS

1. Keith Myers, *The Star*.
2. Ival Lawhon Jr., *St. Joseph News-Press*.
3. Paul Beaver, *The Independence Examiner*.

HM: Travis Heying, *Wichita Eagle*.

HM: J.B. Forbes, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

SPORTS

1. David Eulitt, *The Star*.
2. Thad Allender, *Lawrence Journal-World*.
3. Shane Keyser, *The Star*.

HM: Mike Ransdell, *The Star*.

FEATURE

1. Chris Ochsner, *The Star*.
2. Andrew Cutraro, *Post-Dispatch*.
3. Keith Myers, *The Star*.

HM: Ryan Soderlin, *Salina Journal*.

PHOTO STORY

1. Andrew Cutraro, *Post-Dispatch*.
2. Kevin J. Manning, *Post-Dispatch*.
3. Jessica Stewart, *St. Joseph News-Press*.

HM: Bob Linder, Dean Curtis, Steve Liang, Christina Dicken, Edmee Rodriguez, *Springfield News-Leader*.

HM: John Sleezer, *The Star*.

GRAPHICS

1. Brian McGill, *News-Leader*.
2. Tom Borgman, *Post-Dispatch*.
3. Cara DeMichele, *Columbia Missourian*.

HM: John Telford, *Post-Dispatch*.

DIVISION B

NEWS

1. Allison Skinner, *West Plains Daily Quill*.

2. Laurie Sisk, *The Ottawa Herald*.

3. Sydney Brink, *Sedalia Democrat*.

SPORTS

1. Don Frazier, Cape Girardeau *Southeast Missourian*.

2. Brad Nading, *Garden City Telegram*.

3. Joseph Beaher, *Sedalia Democrat*.

HM: Brad Nading, *Garden City Telegram*.

FEATURE

1. Don Frazier, *Southeast Missourian*.

2. Sydney Brink, *Sedalia Democrat*.

3. Joseph Beaher, *Sedalia Democrat*.

HM: Sydney Brink, *Sedalia Democrat*.

HM: Laurie Sisk, *The Ottawa Herald*.

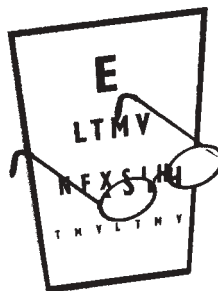
PHOTO STORY

1. Sydney Brink, *Sedalia Democrat*.

2. Sydney Brink, *Sedalia Democrat*.

3. No award given. □

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OPTOMETRIC
ASSOCIATION**

100 East High, Suite 301,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
(573) 635-6151 FAX(573) 635-7989

E-MAIL: moopt@socket.net
Web Site: www.moeyecare.org

Contact:

**Zoe W. Lyle
Executive Director**

When you renew your driver's license or motor vehicle plates, you may make a minimum \$1 donation at the Department of Revenue to support the Blindness Education Screening and Treatment Program Fund.

Obituaries

Omaha

Bill Batson

59 — Began at *The Star*

Bill Batson, a photographer for the *Omaha World-Herald*, died during heart surgery Dec. 8, 2003, in Lincoln, Neb.

Mr. Batson, who worked for the newspaper for 18 years, had suffered a heart attack and was being considered for a heart transplant.

His photos ranged from sports to features to breaking news. He was honored at least once by the Nebraska Press Photographers Association as photographer of the year.

Mr. Batson began his career at *The Kansas City Star*.

Survivors include his wife, son, sister and brother.

Kansas City

Paul J. Haskins

62 — Former *Star* editor

Paul J. Haskins, a former editor for *The Kansas City Star* and *The New York Times*, died of pneumonia Nov. 23, 2003, in Cancun, Mexico.

Mr. Haskins began working for *The Star* as a copy boy in 1958 and rose to the position of metropolitan editor before leaving in 1982 to work for *The Times*.

He directed reporters who contributed to coverage of the Hyatt Regency skywalk collapse. *The Star* and *The Kansas City Times* won the 1982 Pulitzer Prize

Bar to host media breakfast Jan. 30

The Missouri Bar will host a Missouri Bar/Media Breakfast at 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 30, at Stoney Creek Inn, 2601 S. Providence, Columbia.

Missouri Bar President Bill Corrigan Jr. and several judges from the Supreme Court of Missouri will discuss funding of the courts and possible consequences of proposed budget cuts.

Local judges and attorneys will participate.

The registration invitation to the breakfast says that everything said at the

for general local reporting for their coverage of that disaster. He later assisted *The New York Times* news team with its coverage of events like the Oklahoma City bombing.

Mr. Haskins suffered from emphysema and retired to Mexico in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Judith, of New York City; five children and 12 grandchildren.

Springfield

Owen Dale Fairchild

71 — Father of publisher

Owen Dale Fairchild, father of publisher Steve Fairchild of the Mt. Vernon *Lawrence County Record*, died Nov. 1, 2003, of complications from a stroke suffered a week earlier.

Mr. Fairchild retired in 1994 from Cameron Mutual Insurance Co.

Other survivors are his wife, Joan; two daughters, another son, two sisters and eight grandchildren.

St. Louis

Edwin P. Hurley, Jr.

60 — Helped with recycling

Edwin P. Hurley, Jr., who helped Missouri Press Association in recycled newsprint negotiations with the Legislature in 1990, died Nov. 4, 2003.

Mr. Hurley was an employee of Jefferson-Smurfit paper company when he joined MPA in its efforts to counter mandatory newsprint recycling. He attended a number of meetings with Association leaders in Columbia and testified at hearings in the Capitol.

Survivors are his wife, Linda; several children and grandchildren. □

breakfast will be on the record, so you can take pictures and quote what you hear.

Members of the media can attend the breakfast free.

If you would like to attend, register no later than Jan. 12 by faxing the names of everyone who will attend, their newspaper and their email addresses to (573) 638-2279, or send the information to Jack Wax, Media Relations Director, The Missouri Bar, PO Box 119, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0119. □

Bar has list of attorneys to help explain stories about state legal systems

The Missouri Bar has produced a listing of resources available to help reporters as they explain our changing legal and judicial systems to the public.

The list is of Missouri Bar committee representatives whose committees deal with specific areas of the law. These people can provide background, insight and context into legal issues, and are available to help you. Also listed are telephone numbers for courts around the state.

The resources are provided solely for background information. Unless they so indicate, their statements do not necessarily reflect the position of The Missouri Bar in regard to the subject(s) being discussed. Only the Board of Governors of The Missouri Bar may formally take a position or establish bar policy related to or regarding any specific matter.

The list is at the bottom of the "Media Resources" page on the website mobar.org.

The role of these contacts is to furnish accurate and objective information about the legal aspects of transactions and proceedings. These contact persons will not do legal research, give legal advice or provide other legal services.

Reporters who call should give their names and the news organization represented, along with enough information about the story to enable the contact to answer questions.

The lawyer serving as a news contact may not be identified in a news story without his or her permission. If so identified, or if quoted or paraphrased, the lawyer should be described as the chair or member of the particular Missouri Bar committee listed.

If a question does not fall within the subject areas of the listed committees, please call the Communications Department of The Missouri Bar at (573) 635-4128. A Missouri Bar staff member will attempt to locate a knowledgeable source of information for any legitimate inquiry.

This service is available to all journalists, school publication staffs and people producing community-access programming for cable television stations throughout Missouri. □

Marketplace

Ads on this page are free to members of Missouri Press Association. Cost to non-members is 25¢ per word. Please email your ads to kford@socket.net.

HELP WANTED

HOME-DELIVERY DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Responsibilities include managing the day-to-day newspaper distribution operation, as well as supervising the dock manager, district managers and support staff. If you are a sales and service professional who can guide and coach an outstanding staff to grow circulation and provide impeccable service, you should act today. The chosen candidate will have a proven history of increasing responsibility and sales promotion results. Minimum of three years circulation and managerial experience required, along with great problem solving skills, experience with delivery and independent contractors. We are

a well-established, family-owned Midwest daily and offer outstanding pay, benefits, and performance incentives. Send resumé and cover letter, including salary requirements to: Columbia Daily Tribune, Attention Personnel, 101 N. Fourth St., Columbia, MO 65201 or email to srinehart@tribmail.com. EOE/Drugfree Workplace. 12-17

SPORTS EDITOR: The Rolla Daily News (pop. 16,400; circ. 5,212) is looking for a sports editor to cover all levels of local sports to include high school, college and summertime community competitions. Send resumé and samples to Publisher Steve Sowers, PO Box 808, Rolla, MO 65402, or fax (573) 341-5847, or call toll-free (888) 882-2468. 12-8

PAGE BUILDER: The Benton County Daily Record seeks a full-time pagebuilder with strong Quark and PhotoShop skills as well as the desire to be part of a growing newspaper. Training in newspaper design preferred. Evening and weekend work required. Fax resumé and cover letter to (479) 271-3744 or mail to Melinda Lenda, Community Publishers Inc, PO Box 1049, Bentonville, AR 72712. 12-5

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTER: The Benton County Daily Record is an all-local daily in the 6th fastest growing market in the nation. We need an aggressive reporter who loves the newspaper business and wants to be part of our growing team. Photography experience preferred. Excellent benefits package including group health and dental insurance, 401K and 401K match, profit sharing and paid time off. Send resumé and clips to: Melinda Lenda, Community Publishers, Inc., PO Box 1049, Bentonville AR 72712 or fax 479-271-3744. 12-5

DO YOU LIKE SPORTS?: The Benton County Daily Record, a daily in fast-growing northwest Arkansas, is accepting applications for a full-time sports reporter to cover prep sports and community sports in Benton County. Previous writing experience required. Fax resumé and cover letter to (479) 271-3744 or mail to: Attn: Melinda Witt,

Community Publishers Inc., PO Box 1049, Bentonville AR 72712. 12-5

AD SALES: Experienced Advertising Sales Representative needed. Great rapidly growing market, great commission. Contact Randy Battagler, Lee's Summit Post-Tribune, Raytown Post, 816-353-5545. 12-3

REPORTER: The Lee's Summit Post-Tribune, a weekly newspaper near Kansas City, Mo., is looking for a hard-working, enterprising general assignment reporter to join our news team. Experience is preferred, but we are willing to train a recent graduate with the desire to make it in this business. The Lee's Summit Post-Tribune joins the award-winning Post franchise in the rapidly growing Kansas City area. This position will include covering a variety of beats and assignments as well as taking photographs. Good pay and great benefits. Please send your resumé, qualifications and clips to Jeff Fielder, editor, P.O. Box 9338, Raytown, MO 64133. 11-12

JOB WANTED

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: Hands-on metro-newspaper operations executive with extensive innovative ideas in efficiencies, scheduling and implementation of production processes. Background as daily production director and technical management. Expertise includes process color management, project management, systems analysis, general management and customer satisfaction. Looking for a small hometown newspaper to call home for the next 20 years. 317-838-7260 or printproductionmgr@yahoo.com. 12-02

FOR SALE

THREE LEGAL WEEKLY PAPERS with common section in Southwest Missouri. Perfect for Mom and Pop. Health forces sale. Price reduced to \$45,000. Financing available with small down. Call 417-889-0228. 11-7

Another award for West Plains Daily Quill

The *West Plains Daily Quill* received a special media award from the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association at its fall meeting at Lake Ozark.

The award was presented to *Quill* publisher Frank L. Martin III for the paper's series on the workings of the juvenile justice and welfare system in Missouri, including a fictional account that demonstrated how the system would handle a typical case of child abuse and foster care home placement.

The series was reprinted in booklet form, and copies were given to each of the more than 300 attending the conference.

The *Quill* received a similar award for the series in October from the Missouri Bar Association. □

Go to mopress.com to read the ads that were too late to make this publication.

Listings of the month:

Upper Midwest specialty publishers of real estate and vacation monthlies, with large distribution company. \$1.3 million gross rev. with EBITDA @ \$275k. Listed at \$1.5 million. **SOLD!**

Central Midwestern county seat bi-weekly with sister county seat weekly, gross rev. @ \$1m with strong earnings. Includes large office supply company. Listed at 6X earnings.

Suburban pair of two weeklies with gross rev. @ \$440k listed at only 1X gross. Strong growth area.

For more information on these properties, or to inquire about listing your property call or write:

NATIONAL MEDIA ASSOCIATES
EDWARD ANDERSON, BROKER
P.O. Box 2001
Branson, MO 65615
417-336-3457

Missouri Newspaper Organizations

NORTHWEST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Dennis Ellsworth, St. Joseph; First Vice President, Kay Wilson, Maryville; Second Vice President, Jamey Honeycutt, Cameron; Secretary, Kathy Conger, Bethany; Treasurer, Chris Boultinghouse, Mound City. Directors: Kathy Whipple, Kearney; Becky Sellars, Smithville; Chuck Haney, Chillicothe; W.C. Farmer, Rock Port; Wendell Lenhart, Trenton; Tim Larson, Maryville.

SHOW-ME PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Dick Fredrick, Paris; First Vice President, Charlie Fischer, Sedalia; Second Vice President, Jeff Hedberg, Centralia; Secretary-Treasurer, Sandy Steckly, Harrisonville. Directors: Jack Whitaker, Hannibal; Rob Viehman, Cuba; Mark Cheffey, Palmyra; Linda Oldfield, Adrian; John Spaar, Odessa; Dennis Warden, Owensville.

OSZARK PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Keith Moore, Ava; Vice President, Fred Hall, Crane; Secretary-Treasurer, Jeff Schrag, Springfield. Directors: Dala Whittaker, Cabool; Rosemary Hailey, Mount Vernon; Brad Gentry, Houston; Roger Dillon, Eminence; Frank Martin III, West Plains. Past President: Helen Sosniecki.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Annabeth Miller, Dexter; First Vice President, Scott Moyers, Cape Girardeau; Second Vice President, Barbie Rogers, Doniphan; Secretary-Treasurer, Michelle Friedrich, Poplar Bluff; Historian, Mrs. Mildred Wallhausen, Charleston; Executive Secretary, Ann Hayes, Southeast Missouri State University. Directors: Kim Million-Gipson, Piedmont; Peggy Scott, Festus; Mark Young, Marble Hill; H. Scott Seal, Portageville.

DEMOCRATIC EDITORS OF MISSOURI: President, Richard Fredrick, Paris; First Vice President, Bob Cunningham, Moberly; Secretary, Beth McPherson, Weston; Treasurer, Linda Geist, Monroe City.

MISSOURI CIRCULATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: President, Jim Kennedy, Bolivar; First Vice President, Brenda Carney, Harrisonville; Second Vice President, Jack Kaminsky, Joplin; Secretary, David Pine, Kansas City; Treasurer, Doug Crews, Columbia. Directors: Ken Carpenter, Kansas City; Rob Siebeneck, Jefferson City.

MISSOURI ADVERTISING MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION: President, Lisa Lynn, Sedalia; First Vice President, Beth Durreman, Lebanon; Second Vice President, Kevin Jones, St. Louis; Secretary, Jane Haberberger, Washington; Treasurer, Doug Crews, Columbia. Directors: Steve Hutchings, Gainesville; Debbie Chapman, Marshfield; John Tucker, Jefferson City; Phil Surratt, Branson; John Spaar, Odessa.

MISSOURI ASSOCIATED DAILIES: President, Larry Freels, Kirksville; Vice President, Wally Lage, Cape Girardeau; Secretary, vacant; Treasurer, Doug Crews, Columbia; Past President, Will Connaghan, St. Louis. Directors: Joe May, Mexico; Mahlon Miles, Clinton; Tom Turner, Camdenton; Ernest Hunt, Kennett; Ben Weir, Independence.

MISSOURI AFFILIATE, NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRESS WOMEN: President, Karen Glines, Des Peres; Vice President, Holly Berthold, Eureka; Finance Director, Karen Zarky, St. Louis; Co-Secretaries, Peggy Koch, Barnhart, and Kathie Sutin, St. Louis; Committee Chairs: Alice Handelman, Village of Westwood, Publicity; Christy James, Richmond Heights, Membership; Gina Kutsch, St. Charles, Newsletter; Dee Raby, Granite City, Ill., Archivist; Pamela Walter, Clayton, Meetings; At Large Board: June Becht, St. Louis; Anne Heinrich, St. Louis; and Elly Wright, Kirkwood. Past President: Janice Denham, St. Louis.

MISSOURI PRESS SERVICE: President, Wendell Lenhart, Trenton; Vice President, William L. Miller, Sr., Washington; Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Wilson, Milan; Directors: William E. James, Harrisonville; David Lipman, St. Louis.

MISSOURI PRESS FOUNDATION, INC.: President, Tom Miller, Washington; First Vice President, David Lipman, St. Louis; Second Vice President, Mrs. Betty Spaar, Odessa; Secretary-Treasurer, Doug Crews, Columbia. Directors: R.B. Smith III, Lebanon; Wallace Vernon, Eldon; Rogers Hewitt, Shelbyville; James Sterling, Bolivar; Mrs. Wanda Brown, Harrisonville; Mrs. Avis Tucker, Warrensburg; Edward Steele, Columbia; Bill Bray, Columbia; Robert Wilson, Milan; Ralph Clayton, Caruthersville; Kirk Powell, Pleasant Hill.

MISSOURI AP PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS: Chairman, Gary Rust, Cape Girardeau; Vice Chairmen, Gary and Helen Sosniecki. **Missouri AP Managing Editors:** Chairman, Dennis Ellsworth, St. Joseph; First Vice Chairman, Diane Raynes, Trenton; Second Vice Chairman, Oliver Wiest, Sedalia; Past Chairman, Buzz Ball, Neosho.

MISSOURI SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS: President, Bud Jones, Odessa; First Vice President, Buck Collier, St. Louis; Second Vice President, Buzz Ball, Neosho; Secretary-Treasurer, Doug Crews, Columbia. Directors: Chris Wrinkle, Lebanon; Dennis Ellsworth, St. Joseph; Dale Brendel, Independence; Susan Miller Warden, Washington; and Cathy Ripley, Chillicothe.

MISSOURI COLLEGE MEDIA ASSOCIATION: President, Dan Huber, St. Louis Community College-Meramec; Vice President, Dana Fecho, Central Missouri State University; Secretary, Jason Tyler, St. Louis Community College-Meramec; Adviser and MPA Liaison, Tammy Merrett, St. Louis Community College-Meramec.

CALENDAR

January 2004

15 — MPA / MPS Board meeting, 1 p.m., Ramada Inn, St. Joseph

15-16 — Northwest Missouri Press Association annual meeting, Ramada Inn, St. Joseph

February

26 — MPA judges Tennessee Ad Contest

March

1-5 — Newspaper in Education Week

17-20 — NNA Government Affairs Conference, Wyndham Washington DC

18 — MPA judges Tennessee Newspaper Contest

April

1-2 — Missouri Society of Newspaper Editors, Sheraton Westport Hotel, St. Louis.

15-16 — Missouri Advertising Managers' Association, Sheraton Westport Hotel, St. Louis

May

6 — Past Presidents & Spouses Dinner, Country Club of Missouri, Columbia

June

3-5 — Show-Me Press Association meeting, Holiday Inn, Lake Ozark

24-25 — Central States NIE Conference, Springdale, Ark.

July

21-23 — The Living Textbook, Newspaper In Education Teacher Workshop, UMC

September

9-11 — 138th Annual MPA Convention & Trade Show, University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield

15-18 — 118th Annual National Newspaper Association Convention, Denver, Colo.



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