



# Press

## Missouri News

Your inside story for

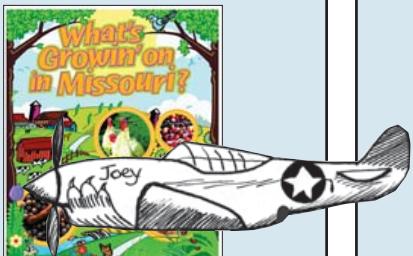
February 2004



- 6** Spread the word about openness during Sunshine Week.



- 8** Day at the Capitol Feb. 19 promises political fireworks



- 24** NIE programs have more to offer.



**Northwest Missouri Press Association elects officers**

2004 officers and directors of Northwest Missouri Press Association are, seated, from the left, Kathy Whipple, Kearney, Director; Becky Sellars, Smithville, Director; Kay Wilson, Maryville, President; Kathy Conger, Be-thany, Secretary; standing, Chuck Haney, Chillicothe, Director; Dennis Ellsworth, St. Joseph, Director; Wendell Lenhart, Trenton, Director; Chris Boultinghouse, Mound City, Treasurer; and W.C. Farmer, Rock Port, Di-rector. First Vice President Jamey Honeycutt, Cameron, Second Vice President Steve Tinnen, Plattsburg; and Director Tim Larson, Maryville, were not present. A report and photos from the Jan. 15-16 Northwest Press meeting are on pages 4 and 5.



**15**

Mary James named president of UM Board of Curators.

**Regular  
Features**

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# Think back, then think ahead

## Be part of planning for Association's next 20 years

**T**hink about how Missouri newspapers have changed in the past 20 years.

If you worked for a weekly newspaper in 1984, you probably wrote your stories on a typewriter, then gave your copy to a typesetter who reset it on a cantankerous Compugraphic phototypesetting machine. If you wanted to change your type size, you changed pulleys.

If you wanted to change fonts, you (carefully) changed a font strip. You prayed that an exciter light wouldn't burn out on deadline.

If you worked for a daily newspaper in 1984, you probably wrote your stories on a primitive VDT, and you had more options where to work. The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, *Kansas City Times* and *Springfield Leader* and *Press* were keeping our biggest cities two-newspaper towns.

Regardless where you worked, you did so without benefit of Macintosh computers (introduced in 1984, but still years away from most newsrooms), digital cameras or the internet, and you probably didn't have a plain-paper copier or fax machine either.

In 1984, you might not have had as many reasons to call the Missouri Press Association office. MPA had no legal hotline, no postal consultant, no Newspapers In Education coordinator and no website for downloading ads.

**T**wenty years ago this month, MPA introduced a new program, Statewide Classifieds, but the 2x2 program was years away. One service MPA provided for a small fee was a weekly Sunday School column by Dr. William H. Taft.

Now think about where Missouri newspapers are headed in the next 20 years. And think about how your Missouri Press Association will meet their needs. That's the goal of "MPA+20: Pressing Ahead," a year-long study of your association's needs and goals from now through 2024.

Then-President Dave Berry identified the need for such long-



VOL. 72, NO. 2  
FEBRUARY 2004  
Official publication of  
Missouri Press  
Association, Inc.

**MISSOURI PRESS NEWS (ISSN 00266671)** is published every month for \$7.50 per year by the Missouri Press Association, Inc., 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201-7799; phone (573) 449-4167; fax (573) 874-5894; e-mail dcrews@socket.net; website www.mopress.com. Periodicals postage paid at Columbia, MO 65201-7799. (USPS No. 355620). **POSTMASTER:** Please send changes of address to Missouri Press Association, 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201-7799.

range planning last fall, and, with the blessing of the MPA board, I appointed chairmen and co-chairmen for three task forces at our meeting last month in St. Joseph.

The "Dollars and Cents" task force will examine where MPA's money comes from and where it goes. It will study our dues structure and our advertising programs, our staffing levels and our physical plant.

First Vice President John Spaar of the *Odessa Odessan* is chairman; Wendell Lenhart of the *Trenton Republican-Times*, MPA's 2001 president, is co-chairman.

The "Membership and Leadership" task force will examine who our members are, who they will be and how we'll serve them in the future. It will propose a mission statement, review our programs and discuss how to keep MPA relevant for both group-owned newspapers and independent newspapers.

**S**econd Vice President Steve Oldfield of the *Adrian Journal* is chairman; Bill Miller of the *Washington Missourian*, MPA's 2000 president, is co-chairman.

The "Relationships and Partnerships" task force will examine how MPA relates to journalism schools, the National Newspaper Association, our unique regional press associations and the alphabet soup of other organizations that serve our industry.

Immediate Past President Dave Berry of Community Publishers of Missouri, Inc., is chairman; Professor (and former newspaper owner) Jim Sterling of the Missouri School of Journalism, MPA's 1985 president, is co-chairman.

Each task force will set short- and long-range goals, plus timetables to accomplish them. Progress reports will be presented to the board in June, with final reports in September.

**President** (continued on page 18)

**PRESIDENT:** Gary Sosniecki, *The Vandalia Leader*  
**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:** John Spaar, *The Odessan*, Odessa  
**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:** Steve Oldfield,  
*The Adrian Journal*  
**SECRETARY:** Sandy Steckly, Harrisonville  
*Cass County Democrat-Missourian*  
**TREASURER:** Dan Wehmer, *Seymour Webster County Citizen*  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Doug Crews  
**ADVERTISING:** Michael Sell  
**EDITOR:** Kent M. Ford

**DIRECTORS:** Dave Berry, Bolivar,  
Community Publishers of Missouri, Inc.  
Dane Vernon, *Eldon Advertiser*  
Wendell Lenhart, *Trenton Republican-Times*  
David Bradley, Jr., *St. Joseph News-Press*  
Jack Whitaker, *Hannibal Courier-Post*  
Vicki Russell, *Columbia Daily Tribune*  
Phil Conger, *Bethany Republican-Clipper*  
**NNA REPRESENTATIVE:** Gary Beissenherz,  
*The Concordian*, Concordia

# Volunteer Today for MPA

Every MPA member is invited to sign up to help lead MPA this year and into the future. Sign up to be a member of a strategic planning task force and/or MPA committee. "MPA+20: Pressing Ahead" is the strategic planning process, approved by the MPA Board of Directors. The task forces this year will look at MPA, inside and out, and help map MPA's future.

The planning groups will meet two or three times during the year, some via conference telephone call, with final reports due in September at the MPA Annual Convention in Springfield.

**Three Task Forces are available for your participation. If you wish to join a Task Force, mark it.**

1. Dollars and Cents Task Force. John Spaar, Chair; Wendell Lenhart, Co-chair. Topics: Dues structure -- Advertising/Missouri Press Service -- Headquarters staffing -- Physical plant -- Investments -- MPA Bylaws -- Other

2. Membership and Leadership Task Force. Steve Oldfield, Chair; Bill Miller, Co-chair. Topics: Mission Statement for Missouri Press Association -- Retaining and growing membership -- Keeping MPA relevant for independent newspapers and group-owned newspapers -- Member services -- Development of future newspaper owners -- Development of future MPA leaders -- Other

3. Relationships and Partnerships Task Force. Dave Berry, Chair; Jim Sterling, Co-chair. Topics: MPA's relationship with School of Journalism -- MPA's relationship with NNA, NAA, MSNE, AP, ISWNE, MAMA (ad managers), MCMA (college media), MCMA (circulation managers) -- MPA's relationship with news media groups/potential coalition allies interested in common legislative issues -- Missouri Press Foundation -- Regional press organizations: NW, SE, Ozark, Show-Me Press -- Other

**Also, you are invited to volunteer for these MPA Committees:**

MPA Legislative Committee, Charlie Fischer, Chair. Directs MPA legislative activities.

MPA Better Newspaper Contest Committee, Dan Wehmer, Chair. Oversees contest, reviews rules.

MPA Convention Committee, Helen Sosniecki, Chair. Plans convention activities.

MPA Political Advertising Committee, Dalton Wright, Chair. Promotes use of newspaper ads.

**Please mark the group(s) above you wish to join as a volunteer.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Sign-up deadline: February 25 !**

Return to MPA, 802 Locust Street, Columbia, MO 65201. Fax 573-874-5894. Email: [dcrews@socket.net](mailto:dcrews@socket.net)

# NW Press elects Kay Wilson

**K**ay Wilson, publisher of the *Nodaway News Leader*, was elected president of the Northwest Missouri Press Association Jan. 16. She succeeds Dennis Ellsworth, editor of the *St. Joseph News-Press*.

Northwest Press held its 114<sup>th</sup> annual meeting Jan. 15-16 at the Ramada Inn in St. Joseph.

Elected to serve with Wilson were Jamey Honeycutt, Cameron *Citizen Observer*, First Vice President; and Steve Tinnen, Plattsburg *Clinton County Leader*, Second Vice President.

Secretary Kathy Conger, *Bethany Republican-Clipper*; and Treasurer Chris Boultinghouse, *Mound City News*, were re-elected.

Elected to the Board of Directors were: Kathy Whipple, *Kearney Courier*; Chuck Haney, *Chillicothe Weekly News*; W.C. Farmer, Rock Port *Atchison County Mail*; Wendell Lenhart, *Trenton Republican-Times*; Tim Larson, *Maryville Daily Forum*; Becky Sellars, Smithville *Com-*

*munity Solutions*; and Ellsworth.

## Scholarship Donations



2004 officers and directors of Northwest Missouri Press Association are, seated, from the left, Kathy Whipple, Becky Sellars, Kay Wilson, Kathy Conger; standing, Chuck Haney, Dennis Ellsworth, Wendell Lenhart, Chris Boultinghouse, and W.C. Farmer. Jamey Honeycutt, Steve Tinnen and Tim Larson were not present.

During the business meeting, the Association voted to donate \$2,000 to the Marilyn Farmer Scholarship Fund. Bill Farmer, retired publisher from Rock Port, added to that by contributing another \$1,000 to the fund. The scholarship, which is administered by the Association, is named for Farmer's late wife.

## Summer meeting

The membership voted to hold a summer golf outing at a time and date to be determined.

Northwest Press in the past occasionally held a summer meeting as a social event and preliminary idea session for the next annual meeting.

## Champagne toast

Before adjourning the business meeting, Kathy Conger led members in their traditional Lucy Jones toast in remembrance of deceased associates, in particular the former publisher of the *Platte City Landmark*, who served as secretary of the association for many years. □

## Sunshine Law scenarios provide questions for officials, journalists

**I**n two fictional scenarios involving the Sunshine Law launched discussion during a Northwest Press session organized by Jean Maneke, MPA's legal hotline counselor.

In the first scenario, members of a city council shared information via email. Questions about the activity involved posting notice of a meeting, whether the activity constituted a meeting and whether the emails were public records.

The second activity involved the

records of a county commission study of road maintenance. Most of the discussion involved how the county should provide massive amounts of records and how much it could charge for copies.

Assistant Attorney General Paul Maguffee moderated the panel, which was made up of editors and elected officials.

Their discussion revealed concensus on many questions but uncertainty and confusion over interpretation of the Sunshine Law on others. □



## John Spaar captures Best Idea prize

**J**ohn Spaar of *The Odessa* swept the competition in the Northwest Missouri Press Association's Best Idea Contest. He won a \$50 prize by acclamation.

Actually, the contest organizers thought Spaar deserved \$50 for entering the contest, more as a reward than a prize. He was the only one who entered.

Planners Kay Wilson of Maryville and Jamey Honeycutt of Cameron gathered up some ideas for the early arrivers at the Northwest Press meeting to talk about. □



Above, Legal Hotline counselor Jean Maneke and MPA Executive Director Doug Crews hand out material for the Sunshine Law discussion. Right: Serving on the Sunshine Law panel at the Northwest Press meeting were, from left, Andrew County Clerk Dan Hege- man; *Maryville Daily Forum* editor Tim Larson; St. Joseph Mayor David Jones; Assistant Attorney General Paul Maguffee; *St. Joseph News-Press* city editor Steve Booher; and Rock Port Atchison County Mail publisher W.C. Farmer.



Becky Sellars of *Smithville Community Solutions* weekly won the drawing for the television set provided by Farmers Electric Cooperative. The organization has donated a television to the Northwest Press meeting for many years. Jason Fulp, Kearney, communications director for Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative, is on the left.



Aby Simmons, a reporter for *The Northwest Missourian*, the student newspaper at Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, interviews Dr. Elson Floyd at the Northwest Missouri Press Association meeting. Dr. Floyd spoke about the University of Missouri, the proposed merger with Northwest Missouri State University, and other issues involving MU and higher education in Missouri.

Northwest Press Association presented its James C. Kirkpatrick Award to Dr. Floyd in recognition of his spirit of openness and public service. The award is named for the late Secretary of State, who was a former newspaper publisher and longtime friend and associate of Northwest Press. Chris and Linda Boultinghouse, editors and publishers of the *Mound City News*, received the Association's Merrill Chilcote Award for editorial excellence. The Craig Watkins Friend of Northwest Press Award was presented to Kent Ford, editor of Missouri Press Association. Ford, who owned the *Oregon Times-Observer* with his wife, Sharon, during the 1980s, served as president of Northwest Press in 1986. The award is named for the late editor of the *Cameron Citizen Observer*, a longtime associate and friend of Northwest Press. (St. Joseph News-Press photo.)



# Turn on Sunshine Feb. 8-14

Observance will focus attention on open meetings, open records statute

**M**issouri newspapers and the Missouri Press Association are pulling together to promote "Sunshine Week" in Missouri.

The observance will begin Feb. 8 — Sunshine Sunday — with editorials and op-ed pieces in newspapers across the state focusing on the Missouri Sunshine Law, Sunshine Law initiatives in the Missouri Legislature, how-to stories about the law (for instance, how citizens submit a request for public records), and other activities.

The idea is to build greater public — and legislative — support for the Sunshine Law by showing how citizens can use it to hold government accountable.

## Missouri will judge Tennessee contests in February, March

Judges who help with the Tennessee ad contest in February and newspaper contest in March will receive a bonus for their efforts. Each judge will get a coupon for two free entries in Missouri Press contests.

Tennessee's Ad Contest will be judged Thursday, Feb. 26; the Newspaper Contest on Thursday, March 18. Both activities will begin at 8 a.m. with sign-in and continental breakfast. Lunch will be provided.

Both contests will be judged at the Holiday Inn Select, Columbia. If you would like to make a room reservation, call the hotel at (573) 445-8531.

Each judge will receive coupons for two free entries from his or her newspaper in the Missouri Press Better Ad Contest or Better Newspaper Contest. If five people from a newspaper help judge, their paper will receive 10 coupons.□

### Jean Maneke

MPA Legal Hotline

4435 Main St., 620 One Main Plaza  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
(816) 753-9000; Fax (816) 753-9009



All Missouri newspapers are invited to participate.

Sunshine Week will continue Feb. 9-14 with editorials, stories, reprints and public service ads published in Missouri weeklies and dailies.

All editorials, stories and other materials are available for reprinting in participating newspapers throughout the week. Op-ed pieces are available from MPA attorney Jean Maneke and Charles Davis, director of the Freedom of Information Center at the University of Missouri. They can be used whether you write your own editorial or not.

Material can be downloaded from [mopress.com](http://mopress.com).

Editorial page editors of the major dailies in Springfield, Kansas City and St. Louis are planning their newspapers' par-

ticipation and have supported the proposed Sunshine initiative from the start.

MPA's primary responsibility will be assisting in electronic distribution of materials via email and on its website. At the conclusion of Sunshine Week, MPA will compile as many stories and editorials as possible to be shared with public officials in the state.

Sunshine Week also provides newspapers to hold other activities in their communities, including sponsoring town hall meetings on the Sunshine Law; taking local elected officials to lunch and talking about the Sunshine Law; putting the spotlight of recognition on a local public official who stands up for open government; and visiting local classrooms and to discuss the differences between open and closed government.□

## Nominations being taken for 2004 Hall of Fame inductees

**N**ominations for the Missouri Press Association's Newspaper Hall of Fame are being taken. A nomination form is in this magazine, and it can be downloaded from [mopress.com](http://mopress.com).

Nominations must be in the MPA office by April 30. Nominations received after that date will not be considered for induction this year.

Send with your nomination form any letters of support and other material detailing why your nominee should be in

the Newspaper Hall of Fame.

People chosen for induction will be honored at the MPA Convention, to be held Sept. 9-11 in Springfield.

Inductees or their representatives will receive Pinnacle Awards at the Hall of Fame Banquet. Plaques with their likenesses will be displayed in the William A. Bray Conference Room in the MPA building and in the student lounge of Lee Hills Hall at the School of Journalism.□

### Missouri Press Association / Missouri Press Service

802 Locust St. / Columbia, MO 65201-7799

(573) 449-4167; FAX (573) 874-5894; [www.mopress.com](http://www.mopress.com)

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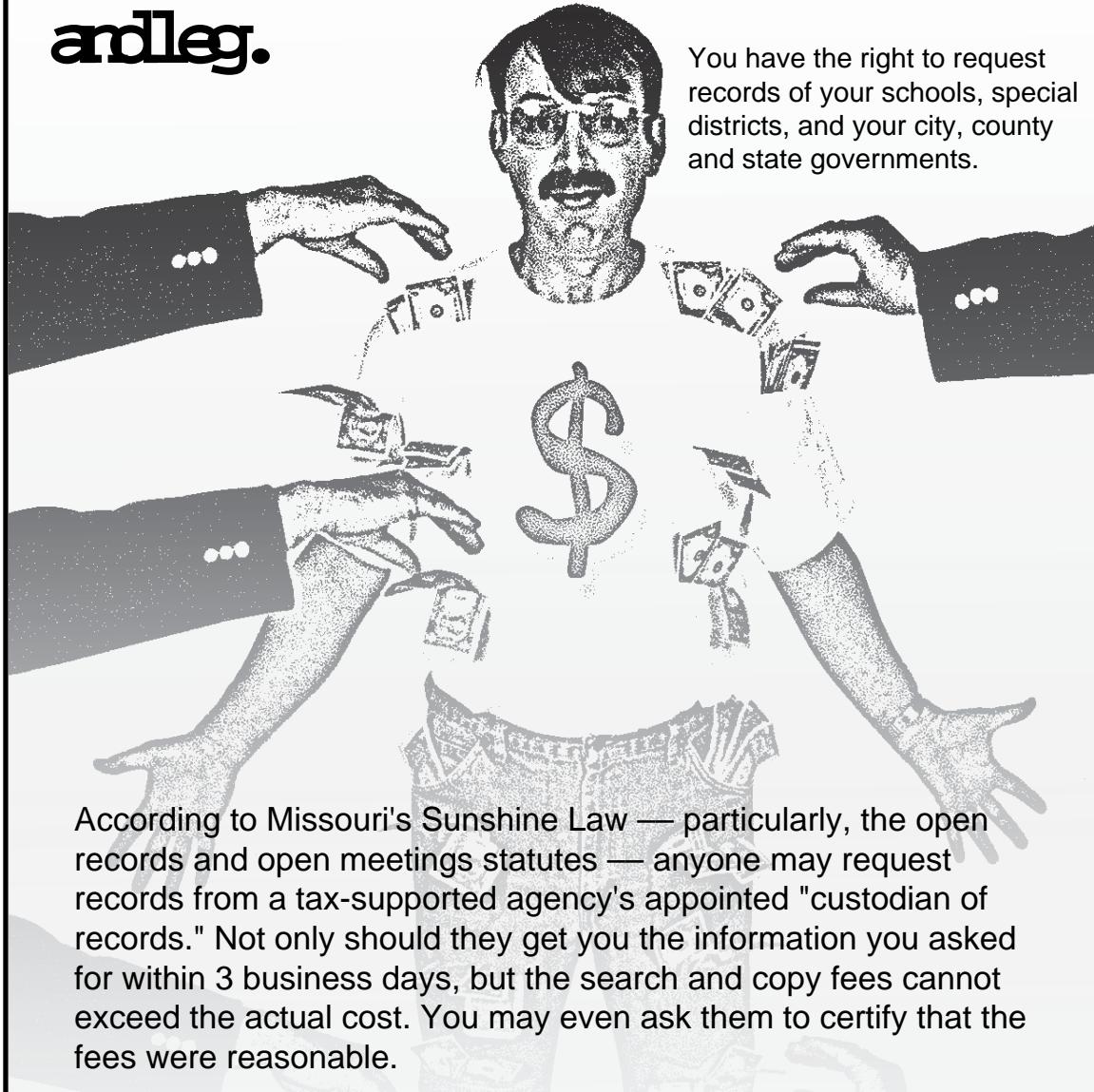
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# Getting copies of public records shouldn't cost you an arm and leg.

You have the right to request records of your schools, special districts, and your city, county and state governments.



According to Missouri's Sunshine Law — particularly, the open records and open meetings statutes — anyone may request records from a tax-supported agency's appointed "custodian of records." Not only should they get you the information you asked for within 3 business days, but the search and copy fees cannot exceed the actual cost. You may even ask them to certify that the fees were reasonable.

The Sunshine Law is a law for everyone, not just the news media. The Missouri Press Association and this newspaper ask you to support openness in local and state government records and meetings. Democracy, after all, does not work if meetings are held in secret or information is expensive to obtain.



## Missouri Sunshine **LAW**

# Attend Day at the Capitol March 4

Legislative leaders, candidates for state offices, lunch in Mansion on agenda

**M**PA's Day at the Capitol holds the promise of high entertainment.

With Gov. Bob Holden and the Republican legislative leaders battling over the budget and everything else, and with virtually all of them running for one statewide office or another, how could you resist this event?

MPA/AP Day at the Capitol will be Thursday, March 4, with an agenda similar to previous years.

You will gather with other journalists in the Capitol for morning sessions with



state office holders. You'll have lunch in the Governor's Mansion, then hear from the governor and legislative leaders.

It's a free program. Get signed up now.

#### Speakers:

10 a.m. and 11 a.m., separate sessions in the Senate Lounge, third floor of the Capitol: (Invited) Secretary of State Matt Blunt and State Auditor Claire McCaskill.

Blunt is a Republican candidate for governor; McCaskill a Democratic challenger to incumbent Gov. Holden.

Noon: Luncheon in the Governor's

Mansion, followed by remarks by Governor and Mrs. Bob Holden

After the Governor's remarks, leaders of the Missouri Senate and House will discuss current issues before the General Assembly: (Invited) Senate President Pro Tem Peter Kinder (R-Cape Girardeau), Senate Minority Leader Ken Jacob (D-Columbia), Speaker of the House Catherine Hanaway (R-Warson Woods), House Minority Leader Rick Johnson (D-High Ridge).

Kinder is a Republican candidate for lieutenant governor; Jacob is a Democratic candidate for that post; Republican Hanaway is running for secretary of state.

The program will end by 3 p.m. □

# Hunt succeeds Hill in Southeast

**B**arbara Hill, publisher of the Delta North properties for Rust Communications, retired at the end of January after four decades in the newspaper business. Kennett newspaper publisher Bud Hunt succeeded Hill as publisher in Dexter, Bloomfield, Advance and Malden, as well as continuing his role in Kennett.

Hill began her newspaper career with *The Dexter Statesman* in 1962 as a reporter. She later served as editor before becoming advertising manager in 1974.

In 1991 Hill became publisher of the Dexter and Kennett daily newspapers and also assumed the publisher's duties

when Malden, Bloomfield and Advance were added to the Delta properties.

Hunt, who has a long newspaper career, has been publisher of the Kennett newspaper since 1994. He was editor of the newspaper prior to being named publisher.

Kennett is the printing facility for Dexter, Malden, Advance/Bloomfield as well as several Arkansas newspapers and shoppers.

Hunt and his family will continue to reside in Kennett. His wife, Lee, is employed at the Progressive Farm Credit office in Kennett. They have two children.

The Delta North newspapers are a

part of Rust Communications, which includes 17 daily newspapers and 30 weekly newspapers as well as numerous shoppers and specialty publications in seven states.

"Barbara's been part of our newspaper family for a long time, and we will miss her warm personality and management style," said Jon K. Rust, co-president of Rust Communications. □

## Obituaries

Oak Ridge, Tenn.

### Dramia M. Smith

88 — Mother of past president

**M**rs. Dramia M. Smith, mother of 1991 MPA President R.B. "Bob" Smith III, died Jan. 21, in Oak Ridge, Tenn., of congestive heart failure.

Mrs. Smith was a native of Newport, Tenn. She worked for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory from 1955 until her retirement in the mid-1970s.

She also leaves a daughter. □

## Southeast Press will meet April 16 in Cape

**S**outheast Missouri Press Association will meet Friday, April 16, at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

This 112<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will feature a forum with candidates for statewide office and a tour of the *Southeast Missourian*'s new printing plant and computer-to-plate imaging system.

The "What a Great Idea!" Contest will be held, as will concurrent breakout sessions.

The Association will present its Mildren Wallhausen Award and attend a reception at Wildwood hosted by the University.

More details will be provided as they develop. □

**No Charge  
for This  
Event!**



## **Day At The Capitol**

The Missouri Press Association and The Associated Press  
invite you to be our guests on  
**Thursday, March 4, 2004**  
at the Missouri State Capitol Building  
in Jefferson City  
for our  
**Annual Day At The Capitol.**

### **Register Today!**

(Deadline To Register - February 27, 2004)

**Please return this registration form to  
Missouri Press Association,  
802 Locust Street, Columbia, MO 65201  
Fax: 573-874-5894/E-mail: [litty@socket.net](mailto:litty@socket.net)**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Newspaper or Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number for lunch?** \_\_\_\_\_ (No charge for lunch or registration)

**Gather at 9 a.m. in the Senate Lounge, 3rd Floor, State Capitol.  
All afternoon sessions will be in the Governor's Mansion.**

# Gov. Holden will speak again at editors meeting in St. Louis

People who write for Missouri newspapers and their editors should set aside April 1-2 to attend the annual meeting of the Missouri Society of Newspaper Editors and AP Managing Editors.

The groups will meet Thursday and Friday, April 1-2, at the Sheraton Westport Plaza Tower Hotel in St. Louis. Registration information has been sent to MPA member papers.

Gov. Bob Holden will speak at the APME Awards Luncheon at noon Friday.

The program will open Thursday afternoon with a presentation "The 7.5 Habits of Highly Successful Journalists" by Dick Weiss, deputy metro editor/Sun-



day, of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Have dinner on your own that evening at one of four restaurants, then attend free the Funny Bone Comedy Club show.

Saturday morning sessions are an update by Jean Maneke, MPA's Legal Hotline counselor; a session titled "Ethics in Journalism" and finally a meeting with aspiring journalists from area universities.

The Awards Luncheon will end the program.

Details about the meeting are on the registration form. Register by March 15 to get the \$15 discount. Hotel rooms must be booked by March 1. □



**Directions to the Sheraton Westport Hotel:** From the north: Take I-70 to I-270 South. Exit at Dorsett Rd. Turn left (east) on Dorsett. Get in the right lane, go one block, turn right on Progress Parkway. Proceed about a mile to the stoplight. Continue straight into Westport Plaza. From the south, the directions are the same, except turn right on Dorsett.

O P E N I N G T H E D O O R T O N E W S O L U T I O N S

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## Registration Form

Newspaper	_____
Phone	_____
Email	_____

**Names of Attendees**

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## HOTEL INFORMATION

**Sheraton Westport Plaza  
Tower**  
**900 Westport Plaza  
St. Louis, MO 63146**  
**314-878-1500**  
**800-822-3535**

**\$90.00 /Single or Double**

**Ask for: Missouri Society of  
Newspaper Editors Block  
when making room  
reservations.**

## Conference Fee:

**\$75 Per Registrant** (before March 15)  
**\$90 Late Registrant** (after March 15)

**Please return registration form and payment by March 15th to:**

**Missouri Press Association  
Attn: Lesa Litty  
802 Locust Street  
Columbia, MO 65201**

**MSNE/APME Conference**  
at the annual  
**Planning Letters**

**Sign Up Today!**

AP



# Missouri Society of Newspaper Editors

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Sheraton Westport  
Plaza Tower Hotel  
St. Louis, MO**

See what the Sheraton Westport Plaza Tower Hotel has to offer with great hotel services and amenities that include a fitness center, indoor heated pool and whirlpool and concierge service. Experience the best nightlife in St. Louis at Westport Plaza which features 18 restaurants and a comedy club.

**ROOM RESERVATIONS  
MUST BE MADE BY**

MARCH 1, 2004

CONCLUDING REMARKS

# MPA supports Sunshine changes

Sen. Sarah Steelman, R-Rolla, has filed Senate Bill 1020 in Jefferson City. Missouri Press Association supports this legislation. Among the provisions:

✓ The Curators of the University of Missouri are considered a public governmental body. Certain internal memoranda and letters concerning advice, opinions and recommendations made in connection with the deliberative decision-making process of a public body are considered a public record.

✓ Public bodies are required to maintain minutes of closed meetings. The act provides that a public body is authorized to close a meeting or record related to an "imminent" cause of action.

✓ Records concerning a transaction involving real estate must be made public upon execution of the transaction, rather than within 72 hours of execution.

✓ Records of public employees concerning hours worked and employee benefit information such as the amount of

sick leave and vacation leave must be open.

✓ Donations or contributions from private sources to the salary of a chancellor or president in the University of Missouri system cannot be closed.

✓ The names of the final slate of candidates for any position of final authority in a public governmental office must be open.

✓ Final audit reports issued by auditors of a public body must be open. Records relating to the procurement of or expenditures relating to security systems are open.

✓ A member of a public body that objects to the closing of a meeting shall be immune from any liability for improper closure of a meeting. The objecting member cannot vote on the issue or participate in the discussion.

✓ Fees for copying public records cannot exceed five cents per page and the hourly fee for search time cannot exceed the rate of pay for the least senior em-

ployee of the public body. The first hour of time must be provided without charge. The fee for access to public records on a computer shall only include the cost of the disk used for duplication.

✓ In any suit against a public body for violation of the Sunshine Law, the custodian of records cannot alter or dispose of the records at issue. A public body or member or any law enforcement officer or agency is liable for any *negligent* violation of the Sunshine Law. Currently, the body must *purposely* violate the law.

✓ The act increases the potential penalty from a maximum of \$500 to a range of \$50 to \$1,000.

✓ A public body must ensure that any contract for a public records database must not impair the ability of the public to inspect or copy public records.

✓ The act deletes language which authorized a law enforcement agency to withhold accident or incident reports for 60 days. □

## Call These Organizations for Answers to Your Questions



### Questions about Internet?

Call Socket Internet, LLC for answers to your questions on Email, the World Wide Web, or Network Computing. We can answer virtually any question. Call:

**1 (800) 762-5383, x 115 or  
email: marketing@socket.net**



*Missouri Insurance  
Information Service*

220 Madison St. - 3rd Floor

Jefferson City, MO 65101

**(573) 893-4241 - phone**

**(573) 893-4996 - fax**

**moins@midamerica.net - email**

*A public information organization of insurance companies.*



### Missouri Beef Industry Council

2306 Bluff Creek Drive, #200

Columbia, MO 65201

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***It's What's For Dinner.***

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# Bill would close 'security' records

By GLENN E. RICE

*The Kansas City Star*

**T**he Platte County Sheriff's Department is trying to persuade lawmakers to close records about anti-terrorism strategies and about response plans to hostile situations similar to the Columbine massacre.

A bill that would close the records has been introduced in the Missouri General Assembly by Sen. Charlie Shields, St. Joseph Republican.

Shields said the bill, if approved, would place an exemption on Missouri's Sunshine Law and prevent critical information from landing in the wrong hands. A similar measure was presented last year, but it failed. Several media groups, including the Missouri Press Association, have opposed the bill.

Sheriff Richard Anderson said the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and at Columbine High School have placed an enormous burden on law enforcement agencies to develop appropriate preparation

and response plans.

"Closing those records and taking them out of the view of the public is far less dangerous than leaving them in the public's view so anyone can have access to them and use them against the public," Anderson said.

For instance, Shields said, information about where emergency perimeters would be set up if terrorists attacked Kansas City International Airport is now in the public record.

Shields said the version of the bill introduced last year was too broad and included budgetary items.

In its current form, the proposed legislation would allow governments to close meetings or records that relate to operational plans for agencies responsible for public health and safety, he said.

Shields said the measure would not apply to information concerning budget matters, such as expenses, purchases or contracts the agency makes.

Doug Crews, executive director of the

Missouri Press Association, said his group was not satisfied with some provisions of the bill.

"Our fear is if it is too broadly worded, there could be lots of money being spent and lots of room for mischief that could be shielded from the public," Crews said. "Are people lining up and asking for this information, and are they giving it out?"

Crews said his group was trying to work with Shields and other lawmakers on a possible compromise.

Shields said he wanted the revised bill to be more acceptable to opponents and still prevent documents from falling into the wrong hands.

"Today, if you want that information, you would have to go to the sheriff's or police departments and request it," Shields said. "Ten years from now, most if not all public records will be available on the internet and we need to address that." □

## Call These Organizations for Answers to Your Questions

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## The briefcase passes

MPA Past President David Berry, left center, passes a Presidential Briefcase to 2004 MPA President Gary Sosniecki at the conclusion of the MPA/MPS Board meeting Jan. 15 in St. Joseph. The passing of the briefcase is a tradition at the first meeting of the new year for the boards. That typically occurs at the beginning of the annual meeting of Northwest Missouri Press Association. The MPA/MPS Board members are, from the left, Bill Mill-

er Sr., Washington; Dan Wehmer, Seymour; Sandy Steckly, Harrisonville; David Bradley, St. Joseph; Bob Wilson, Milan; Berry, Bolivar; Phil Conger, Bethany; Sosniecki, Vandalia; Dane Vernon, Eldon; Steve Oldfield, Adrian; John Spaar, Odessa; Jack Whitaker, Hannibal; Gary Beissenherz, Concordian; Doug Crews, MPA, Columbia. Absent: Vicki Russell, Columbia.

# Montgomery City weekly sold to publisher by Fishers

Tamara See, publisher of the *Montgomery Standard* since last summer, has purchased the *Standard* and the *Wellsville Optic-News* from John and Donna Fisher.

See served as advertising manager for the Montgomery City weekly for more than four years before being named publisher. She is a 1977 graduate of Montgomery County High School and attended Lindenwood University, where she studied mass communication. She and her 5-year-old son, Trevor, live in rural Bellflower.

The Fishers planned to continue working at the *Standard*, John as editor

and Donna as news editor.

Gay Donaldson continues as editor and business manager of the *Optic-News*. Sandy Canterbury remains news editor.

John Fisher started with the *Standard* in 1968 working for Bob and Ellen Bowling. He became a partner in the *Standard* and the *Optic-News* in 1976 and bought the papers in 1982.

Donna Fisher joined the *Standard* in 1988.

The *Optic-News*, circulation about 1,900, is observing its 127<sup>th</sup> year. The *Standard*, circulation about 3,700, is in its 137<sup>th</sup> year. Both are printed at *The Mexico Ledger*. □

## K.C. Chief helps collect 90,000 books for children

Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Shawn Barber is the celebrity spokesperson for *The Kansas City Star's Hooked on Books* program. Barber helped gather 90,000 books bought or donated for children this year.

*The Star* started Hooked on Books in 1998 after a series of news stories on public schools. The paper found that academic success is closely tied to strong reading programs.

When this year's donations are distributed, almost 300,000 books will have been given to area children.

This year the Junior League of Kansas City is a partner. Many of its 1,500 volunteers donated thousands of hours to collect, sort and distribute books. □

# James named Curators president

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Mary James secured her seat on the University of Missouri's Board of Curators in the simplest way possible: She asked to serve, and her wish was granted.

"I had always done public service work in my community — park board and athletic booster club. I'd always raised money here in town," James said. "This is sort of an extension of all of that," but it's "the big time."

James, 54, of Harrisonville, is entering her sixth and final year on the nine-member board and was chosen by her fellow curators in December to serve as president for 2004. She wielded the gavel for the first time at the curators' meeting in Columbia on Jan. 27.

James is the daughter of Wanda and the late Jim Brown of Harrisonville (1963 MPA president), and the wife of Bill James, 1998 president of Missouri Press Association and former publisher of the Harrisonville *Cass County Democrat*.



Mary James is in her final year on the Board of Curators.

*Missourian.*

"I'm excited and apprehensive," James said in an interview with *The Kansas City Star*. "I'm extremely honored to have the opportunity to serve. I hate to sound schmaltzy and say, 'It's a lifelong dream.' But I can't think of anything that is more important than that. I'm very excited because I think I'm prepared for it. But I'm apprehensive because it is a huge job."

The all-volunteer board sets tuition, policies and regulations and hires the president of a system that has four campuses, a two-hospital health care entity, more than 60,000 students and a budget of nearly \$2 billion.

James handed her younger son his diploma when he graduated from the Columbia campus in 2000. She has already handed one niece a diploma as well, and expects to do the same for another niece in May.

James is a 1971 graduate of MU. She taught for several years in Texas and Harrisonville, then spent 26 years as the hu-

man resources manager for Cass County Publishing Co., which her family used to own.

James said she feels helpless and frustrated in the face of the state's higher education cutbacks. She said the curators' vote last spring to raise undergraduate tuition 19.8 percent was the worst moment in her five years on the board.

The best moment was hiring Elson Floyd as system president in December 2002, she said.

Several other issues also will warrant attention in the coming year, James said. She will be tracking the progress through the Legislature of a \$190 million bond issue sought by the university system for construction or renovation of scientific research facilities.

She also wants to look at how to retain good professors, some of whom are being wooed away by other universities promising higher salaries or better facilities and support. □

## Judge dismisses libel suit in Moberly

A Randolph County Circuit Court judge in December dismissed a libel case by a former county commissioner against the *Moberly Monitor-Index*.

Fred Ward, the plaintiff, told the *Columbia Daily Tribune* that he believed he had suffered monetary loss, but he "couldn't demonstrate that satisfactorily to the judge."

Ward was the presiding commissioner until December 2002. He filed the libel suit against the daily last August.

Jean Maneke, legal counsel for Liberty Group Publishing, which owns the paper, asked Judge Gary Sprick to dismiss the case, contending that the lawsuit did not meet the basic requirements for a libel case.

The judge agreed and dismissed the case the next day. □

## Carrier for *The Joplin Globe* helps rescue elderly Carthage woman

Carthage police are crediting a *Joplin Globe* newspaper carrier for possibly saving the life of a 93-year-old Carthage woman.

Carrier Don Sharp and his fiance, Donna Shepherd, were delivering papers when they found the woman lying in her yard at about 3:10 a.m.

Sharp went to the police station about four blocks away to notify authorities, then returned to the woman, covered her with a blanket and waited for help.

"The police were right behind me, then the first responders, then the ambulance," Sharp said.

The woman was taken to a Carthage hospital then flown by helicopter to St.

John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin.

The Carthage police chief called Sharp's actions "clearly a lifesaving effort."

Sharp said it appeared the woman fell from her front porch and struck her head on the sidewalk. Her overturned walker and a house slipper were near the porch, and another slipper was farther out in the yard.

Sharp and Shepherd found the woman lying near a fence, where she apparently had crawled in an attempt to get help.

—*The Joplin Globe* □

# Scrapbook

## Bolivar

The *Herald-Free Press* published its annual Year in Review on Jan. 16. It included photos of babies born in 2003.

## Rolla

The *Daily News* partnered with a local auto dealer in a Bowl Contest, with a \$100 grand prize.

Readers were invited to choose the winners of all the college football bowl games to enter the contest. Total points of the Sugar Bowl game served as a tie-breaker.

## Webster Groves

Dwight Bitikofer and Don Corrigan, editors and publishers of the *Webster-Kirkwood Times*, received the 2003 Lifetime Achievement Award for the newspaper from the Kirkwood Area Chamber of Commerce.

The two and other honorees received awards at the Installation and Awards Celebration Jan. 30 at the St. Louis Frontenac Hilton.

## Kansas City

The Kansas City Press Club sponsored a public issues forum on restoring public trust in the news media on Jan. 17 at Zarda Barbecue in Lenexa, Kan.

## Washington

The *Missourian* recognized employee Ken Strubberg for 50 years of service during the company Christmas party.

Editor/publisher Bill Miller Sr. presented a gift to Strubberg, who now works part-time in the pre-press/dark-room department.

Other employees recognized for their years of service included: Cathy Keller, graphic artist, 30 years; Sharon Bargen, graphic artist, 25 years; Jane Haberberger, advertising director, and Lisa Noelke, creative director, 20 years; Kay Scheible, bookkeeping, and Bob Voss, pressman, 15 years; Nancy Heimann, part time office, 10 years.

Employees of Missourian Publishing Co. donated Christmas items to the Pregnancy Assistance Center.

## Raymore

The *Journal* of Belton and Raymore has opened an office in Raymore: 108 N. Madison (Highway 58).

Connie McCann publishes *The Journal*.

## Washington

The *Missourian* contributed significantly to the five top awards won by the 2003 Washington Town and Country Fair at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions Conference in Las Vegas.

The fair won for best agriculture photo/general fair photo with a photo taken by *Missourian* photo editor Jeanne Miller Wood.

Another top award went to the fair for its printed promotional material, a supplement designed, produced and distributed by the *Missourian*.

## Jefferson City

After reporting on the pre-Christmas burglary at a Cole County home, the News Tribune Co. replaced gifts taken from the family of four.

Upon returning home one evening, the family interrupted a burglary in progress. Although the father captured the burglar, he later discovered that a number of gifts already had been removed from the home. They were not recovered.

## St. Louis

*Post-Dispatch* travel writer Tom Uhlenbrock won a first-place award in the 2003 competition sponsored by the North American Travel Journalists Association.

Uhlenbrock won in the "leisure activity" category for an article headlined "The Big Queasy," which told of a culinary tour of New Orleans.

It was the third straight year Uhlenbrock was honored for his travel writing.

## Kahoka

*The Media* in January sponsored a "Pasadena Parade Photo Contest" to fol-

low up the trip of a local high school marching band's trip to the Rose Bowl Parade.

The Clark County Marching Indians marched down Colorado Boulevard in the 115<sup>th</sup> Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day. A day earlier they marched in a parade in Disneyland.

Readers who had taken the trip to California were invited to submit up to three photos taken during the trip. Top photos were printed in the Jan. 21 issue.

The best photo won a DVD player. Other prizes also were awarded.

## Cape Girardeau

Rust Communications published a 32-page book chronicling the Central High School boys soccer team's undefeated regular season. The team placed fourth in the state tournament.

Fifty-five photos and stories from the *Southeast Missourian* — most of them written by sports writer Jeremy Joffray — are in the book. The team won 26 games in a row and made its first trip to the state championships.

The *Southeast Missourian* also produced a book to commemorate the dedication in December of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge over the Mississippi River.

The 60-page volume has many color photos of Mississippi River bridges — old and new — combined with commentary from local dignitaries, and sponsors' congratulations.

## Rolla

The *Daily News* will sponsor the Rolla Area Home & Business Expo 2004 March 19-21.

## Washington

The *Missourian* chose Laurie Link, a teacher at Gerald Elementary School, as its *Missourian* In Education Teacher of the Year.

Link has been a longtime supporter of the *Missourian* In Education program, said Dawn Kitchell, the newspaper's NIE coordinator.

"Teachers are key to any successful Newspaper In Education program," Kitchell said. "There's no doubt in my mind that those kids in Laurie's classroom will be readers — of newspapers,

books, anything. She's excited about reading in general, and that enthusiasm rubs off on her kids."

#### **Bowling Green**

State Rep. Terry Witte presented Linda Luebrecht, general manager of the *Bowling Green Times*, with a proclamation in December recognizing the *Times* for its 130 years in business.

#### **Bolivar**

The *Herald-Free-Press* held a public retirement reception for Judy Kallenbach Jan. 7 in the Community Center. Kallenbach retired at the end of 2003 after 25 years with the paper.

Her successor, Jim Hamilton, former publisher at Buffalo, attended the reception to meet people.

#### **Sikeston**

John Pillers, a copy editor for the *Southeast Missourian* in Cape Girardeau, and Tonia Pennington, a former reporter at the *Standard Democrat* in Sikeston, plan to be married March 13.

Miss Pennington worked at the *Standard Democrat* for 12 years before leaving to pursue a degree in early childhood education at Southeast Missouri State University. Pillers worked at the *Standard Democrat* for 13 years before joining the *Southeast Missourian*.

#### **Troy**

The *Lincoln County Journal* and *Troy Press* want area cooks for a bi-weekly food page called "What's Your Flavor?"

Featured cooks will be photographed in their kitchens and interviewed about their feature recipe.

#### **Columbia**

The Callaway Bank's advisory board has named Vicki Russell, associate publisher of the *Daily Tribune*, to the board for a three-year term.

#### **Kennett**

The *Dunklin Democrat* was among the sponsors for the ninth annual safe cab program to help prevent drunk-en driving over the holiday season.

Dunklin County Cab runs the program, providing free rides home from parties on Christmas and New Year's.

A cab company spokesman said the only drawbacks to the program are people who throw up in the cabs or can't remember their address.

#### **Washington**

Pauline Masson, a part-time editor of *The Missourian's* Pacific pages, has been appointed to a one-year term on the advisory council of the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council.

East-West is the regional council of governments. All projects in the region involving federal funds must be approved by the East-West board.

Members of the advisory council serve only as advisors to the East-West council.

#### **Nixa**

Amanda Jones, an employee of the *Nixa News-Enterprise* and the *Christian County Headliner News* in Ozark, was married Dec. 27 to Clayton Grigsby, in West Plains.

Grigsby is in Army training at Fort Benning, Ga. When he's finished in April the couple will move to Vincenza, Italy.

#### **Salem**

A Fourth of July photo that appeared in *The Salem News* took a second place in a contest sponsored by the Secretary of State's office. The photo will be printed in the next edition of the Official Manual of Missouri.

Publisher Donald Dodd took the picture of the American flag being raised on Independence Day. It placed second in the Best of Celebration category.

#### **Cassville**

The *Democrat* published holiday messages from families to their loved ones serving overseas in the military. All messages received by the paper were printed together in the Dec. 17 issue.

#### **Savannah**

*The Reporter* has started a new weekly column called "How Much?" It will appear on page 2, the Opinion page.

"How Much?" is a simple fact column that details the cost of taxpayer supported projects and events in the area.

#### **St. Joseph**

The Missouri Department of Agricul-

ture named the *News-Press* the winner of the AgriMissouri Media Excellence Award.

Susan Mires leads the paper's coverage of agriculture, which won for "its thorough and meaningful coverage of Missouri agribusinesses and their products."

Director of Agriculture Peter Hofherr presented the award at the annual Governor's Conference on Agriculture at Tan-Tar-A Resort in November.

#### **Cameron**

The Missouri Community Service Commission honored the *Citizen Observer* with its 2003 Media Award, presented on Dec. 16 to publisher Jamey Honeycutt and news editor Darin Sparks.

The award is for the newspaper's commitment to the promotion of volunteerism and service in the community.

#### **Steelville**

*Steelville Star* publisher Rob Viehman presented a check for \$750 to the high school's athletic department. The money represented a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the newspaper's annual sports calendar.

#### **Joplin**

Inland Press Association recognized *The Joplin Globe's* community coordinator position as one of the Top Ten best new ideas for 2003.

*The Globe* established the community coordinator to maintain communication with city leaders and readers through a variety of programs, including "Coffee, Cookies and Conversation" meetings.

#### **Macon**

The *Chronicle-Herald* joined local merchants in sponsoring the 16th annual essay contest for 7th and 8th graders. Teen-age drinking and driving is the topic for the contest every year.

Each teacher chooses an entry. Winning essays are printed in the *Chronicle-Herald*, and the top three student writers receive prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$75.

#### **St. Joseph**

The *Buchanan County News* on Jan. 7 began its 50<sup>th</sup> year of publication. □

## President

(continued from page 2)

If we're successful with "MPA+20: Pressing Ahead," MPA will have a plan that future boards can use as a guide for the next 20 years.

Besides the task forces, I appointed chairmen of these committees for 2004:

- Legislative — Charlie Fischer of *The Sedalia Democrat*.
- Contest — Dan Wehmer of the *Webster County Citizen*.
- Convention — Helen Sosniecki of *The Vandalia Leader*.
- Political Advertising — Dalton Wright of *The Lebanon Daily Record*.

This brings me back to my message of last month:

I want this to be a year of inclusion. I want every MPA member to feel welcome to serve on one or more of the three task forces planning MPA's future and our four regular committees.

Each should include representatives of big papers and small papers, dailies and weeklies, group-owned papers and independents, active members and passive members, and from all regions of the state.

Pick a committee to serve on and call its chairman, Doug Crews or me. Please don't delay, because some of these committees will hold their first meetings this month.

You can reach me at (573) 594-2222 or by e-mail at [vandalialeader@vandaliamo.net](mailto:vandalialeader@vandaliamo.net).

It's your association — and your opinion is wanted. □

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# Oestreich retires from Sprint

After nearly 40 years of service, Ivan Oestreich has retired from Sprint.

Oestreich has been a fixture at Missouri Press Association and regional press meetings for many years. He regularly plays in the MPA golf tournament.

Oestreich began his career with Sprint in 1964. At that time, the company was known as United Telephone.

Oestreich held a number of management positions in Missouri before being named public affairs manager in 1983.



**Ivan Oestreich**  
has attended  
numerous Asso-  
ciation events.

In his public affairs manager role, he kept legislators, business leaders and consumers informed about Sprint's operations and industry issues. He also managed advertising, contributions, sponsorships and community support in west-central Missouri.

Oestreich has been active in community affairs in his hometown of Clinton for decades. He was president and served on the board of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce and was president and served on the board of the Clinton Rotary and the Clinton Tourism Association. He currently is a member of the Henry County Economic Development Council.

Oestreich also is a member of the Eagles and Elks clubs, the United Methodist Church, Ararat Shrine, Masonic Lodge and the Royal Order of the Jester.

Sprint has not yet named Oestreich's replacement. □

## Business Journal offers free email update service

The *St. Louis Business Journal* has started a free email news update service.

People who sign up can receive an email shortly after 3 p.m. with breaking news headlines about local businesses.

The stories are written by the *Business Journal's* news staff. To see what we're reporting today, go to [stlouis.bizjournals.com/stlouis/dailyedition.html](http://stlouis.bizjournals.com/stlouis/dailyedition.html).

This service is available to anyone who registers on the *Business Journal's* website, [bizjournals.com](http://bizjournals.com). □

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**NOMINATION FORM**  
**2004 Induction**  
**Missouri Press Association**  
**Hall of Fame**



**To the MPA Hall of Fame Committee:**

I am pleased to nominate the following person: (Nominees from 2002 and 2003 are automatically eligible for consideration in 2004. They need not be renominated.)

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility Criteria**

1. Nominee has shown exemplary contributions to the newspaper industry during a period of at least 20 years prior to being nominated, or, if nominee died while still active in promoting the newspaper industry, the nominee displayed exemplary contributions during a period of at least 10 years.
2. Nominee has lived honorably.
3. Nominee has influenced unselfishly.
4. Nominee has thought soundly.
5. Nominee has displayed community involvement.

Nominated by:

---

Your signature \_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**For a nominee to be considered, you must attach biographical information.** Include a photo of the nominee, if available. Provide any information you think will be helpful in deciding the inductees for this year. Additional letters of recommendation assist the committee. You may renominate a person you nominated in a previous year. Confidentiality is extremely important for all nominees. The selection committee thanks you for your assistance.

**Deadline for nominations is April 30, 2004.** Inductees will be honored at the Sept. 9-11 MPA Convention at the University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield. **Return this form to Missouri Press Association, Hall of Fame, 802 Locust Street, Columbia, MO 65201.** Nominations received after the deadline will not be considered. You may nominate more than one person. Copy this form if necessary.

## Ozark area students can enter essay contest

High school students in the Ozarks are invited to submit an essay for a local contest sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists. Entries should be titled, "What a Free Media Means to America."

Students placing first through third will receive award certificates from SPJ and an opportunity to see their essays in print. The first-place selection will be forwarded to the national competition where students could earn a scholarship worth \$1,000, \$500 or \$300.

The qualifying contest for students in the Ozarks is being organized by the Southwest Missouri Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

More information about the contest and about the Southwest Missouri Pro Chapter of SPJ is available online at [spj.org/southwestmo](http://spj.org/southwestmo). □

## Sunshine violation voids Southwest City action

Because of a Sunshine Law violation, the city council of Southwest City voided all of its motions and votes taken during its Dec. 8 meeting. Those actions were revisited at its Dec. 23 meeting.

City Clerk Dee Shields told McDonald County Newspapers that the regular meeting was moved from Tuesday, Dec. 9, to Dec. 8, and she forgot to post a public notice of the new meeting date before leaving work Friday.

State law requires that notice of public meetings be posted at least 24 hours before the meeting, excluding weekends. □

## New Madrid publisher takes county clerk office

Clement Cravens, publisher of the New Madrid Weekly Record, was sworn in Dec. 31 as interim county clerk of New Madrid County. The previous clerk retired after 29 years in the office.

Cravens is a 1972 graduate of New Madrid High School. He returned to the community in 1984 and entered the newspaper business.

Cravens, who served nine years on the New Madrid Board of Aldermen, said he would file for this year's election to complete the term in 2006. □

## Press Women honor Columbian

Missouri Press Women member Betty Cook Rottmann, Columbia, received state and national recognition in 2003 for her professional and civic service.

The National Federation of Press Women recognized Rottmann for her 45 years of membership. That presentation was made in September at NFPW's annual meeting in Delaware.

In October the Missouri Humanities Council awarded Rottmann the Gover-

nor's Humanities Excellence in Community Heritage Award at a ceremony at the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City.

Rottmann served as president of Missouri Press Women in 1966 and was named Woman of Achievement in 1982. A graduate of the University of Missouri, she was on the MU public relations staff from 1958 until she retired in 1987.

Rottmann represented the United States at the 1980 UNESCO seminar in Japan on re-entry women. □

## J School will be summer editing center

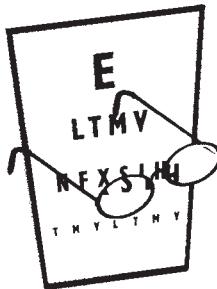
The Missouri School of Journalism again this summer will be one of eight Centers for Editing Excellence through the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund. Professor Brian Brooks will direct the program for high school and college students.

Editing programs have been allocated \$560,500 as part of the Fund's Newspaper Editing Intern Program.

The Fund will provide 120 internships in 2004 to college students who are juniors, seniors and graduate students in its copy editing and sports copy editing programs and to minority college sophomores and juniors in business reporting.

Another \$119,000 in grants will fund 28 summer workshops for minority high school journalism students. One of those workshops will be at UMC. □

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'Redaction' an important open records tool

# 4 opinions in 2003 provide guidance

Periodically, our state's attorney general, Jay Nixon, opines on the Sunshine Law. While his opinion doesn't carry the weight of the courts, these opinions are helpful in offering guidance to public officials regarding the interpretation of the law in terms of access to public records.

Four opinions dealt with Sunshine Law and related issues in 2003. One dealt with juvenile records; another with quasi-public bodies and access to records in the hands of a consultant. A third dealt with access to election registration records. The last dealt with release of the addresses of members of not-for-profit corporations.

The earliest opinion arose from the request from Warrensburg Mayor Mike Rich regarding handling of identifiable information in records of juvenile court proceedings. The mayor asked the AG's office to interpret the relationship between the provisions of Chapter 610, the Sunshine Law, with the provisions in Chapter 211 on juvenile records.

In particular, the mayor sought a clarification as to release of arrest and incident reports containing identifiable information on juveniles.

The AG's office clarified first that it spoke only in terms of records from juvenile court proceedings, as opposed to, say, police or sheriff's records. In looking at the provisions of Chapter 610 that mandate openness in arrest and incident reports, and Chapter 211, which closes records regarding the identity of juveniles, the AG's opinion concluded that if a record otherwise should be open under Chapter 610, then the agency must redact all identifying information



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regarding juveniles and make the balance of the report public.

It acknowledged that in making these redactions more than just the identity of the juvenile might have to be redacted to fully protect the juvenile's identity.

The important part of this opinion for us is the clarification of the AG's office of the duty of REDACTING information from an otherwise open report. In short, if an incident report contains the name of juvenile witnesses, only that

portion of the report that contains identifiable information concerning the juvenile can be closed. The balance must remain open.

Further, if a report is released containing the name of a juvenile, remember that the provisions of Chapter 211 apply only to juveniles under the supervision of the court and not to the public at large.

The second opinion relating to records access focused on names and addresses of members of not-for-profit corporations collected pursuant to Chapter 355. Those names and numbers are to be made available to permit members to communicate with each other prior to the annual meeting and to permit members to identify other members.

Sen. John Russell (District 33), wrote to ask the Attorney General if any federal privacy law conflicted with the state law requiring disclosure of those records. The AG's office looked particularly at 5 U.S.C. Section 552a, which it noted applied to agencies that maintain information.

Because the information kept by the state did not fall within the records identified in the federal law, the AG's opinion was that the federal law did not prohibit

disclosure under state law of the information when the state collects.

In November, two decisions were issued by the AG's office on the same date, both of some significance to MPA members. The first, issued at the request of Sen. Chuck Gross, looked at election laws, in particular at the voter registration list in an electronic format.

Two questions arose in this context: First, whether the election authority should provide electronic access, and second, whether the paper's request would constitute use for "commercial purposes" prohibited by Section 115.158.

It is important to note here that this statute excludes from "commercial purposes" a use of the list for campaign purposes, for candidate purposes or for "ballot measures," all of which mean that those involved in elections and campaign mailing have a right to this data.

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, the entity seeking access, had affirmed in a letter that the use was for the newsroom and not for the advertising department. Therefore, the AG opinion concluded that this clearly was not for commercial purposes and that the list must be made available. In this context, it noted that any penalty for commercial use attached to the user and not to the election authority for its release of the list.

Further, the opinion pointed out that there was precedent in its opinions for the fact that the list must be made available in an electronic format if it was so available.

Finally, on that same date, the Attorney General's Office released an opinion at the request of Sen. John Loudon. I detailed this opinion in my column that ran in December, so I will not dwell on it again.

Suffice it to say that the opinion concluded that a citizens advisory committee appointed by the city to make recommendations about the city's land use plan was subject to the Sunshine Law and had to keep minutes and a record of its votes. Further, if a record was created for presentation to a public governmental body by a consultant, then that was a public record and must be produced upon request.

All of these 2003 opinions are available from the AG's web page at [ago.state.mo.us/opinions/opinions.htm](http://ago.state.mo.us/opinions/opinions.htm). □

# On the Move

## Belton

Paula Parrish has been named editor of *The Journal* in Belton/Raymore. She is a 1986 graduate of Belton High School and a 1991 journalism graduate of the University of Kansas.

Parrish has worked for a number of large newspapers, including the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* and the *Rocky Mountain News*. She has covered two Olympic Games and two Super Bowls during her career as a sports writer.

Parrish is married to Kamon Simpson, *The Journal's* sports editor.

## St. Louis

Charles Guenther, 83, who for 50 years reviewed poetry for the *Post-Dispatch*, has retired.

Mr. Guenther is a native of St. Louis, has written several books of poetry and has written articles for more than 300 magazines worldwide.

## Excelsior Springs

Phil Senger and Michael Daniels have joined the news staff of the *Standard*, working part-time.

Senger worked for 23 years evaluating claims for Missouri unemployment insurance in the Kansas City area.

Daniels is a senior at Lawson High School.

## Cape Girardeau

Cape Girardeau native and the *South-*

*east Missourian's*  
Arts & Leisure  
editor, Sam  
Blackwell, has  
been named the  
paper's manag-  
ing editor.

Blackwell will  
work closely  
with the editor,  
oversee the  
newsroom and  
serve on the edi-  
torial board.

Blackwell  
holds degrees in  
English from  
Southeast Mis-  
souri State University and in journalism  
from the Missouri School of Journalism.  
He joined the *Southeast Missourian* full  
time in 1973 as a sports writer. After  
moving around the country for a number  
of years he returned to the paper in  
1992. He's married to Dr. Danna Cot-  
ner.

Blackwell succeeded Heidi Hall, who  
took a job as an assistant metro editor for  
the *Tampa Tribune*.

## Fayette

Linda Vroman, a veteran of nearly 20  
years with the Fayette newspapers, has  
been named office manager.

Jan Wiese-Fales, a graphic artist, has  
joined the staff. She's in charge of ad pro-



**Sam Blackwell**  
named managing  
editor at Southeast  
Missourian.

duction and is doing some news work.

Jane Ann Welcelean, who retired re-  
cently after many years as director of col-  
lege services at Central Methodist Col-  
lege, has joined the staff to help with  
commercial printing and proofing.

Wiese-Fales and Welcelean work part  
time.

## Joplin

Brent Fisher has been named executive  
sports editor of *The Globe*. He served as  
assistant design chief since June 2000.

Fisher is a native of Webb City and a  
graduate of Southwest Missouri State  
University. He worked at *The Morning  
Sun* in Pittsburg, Kan., before joining  
*The Globe*.

Fisher and his wife, Michelle, have  
five children.

*The Globe* named Aaron Bycoffe, a de-  
signer and copy editor at *The Globe* since  
June 2002, to replace Fisher as assistant  
design chief.

Bycoffe is a journalism graduate of  
Temple University in Philadelphia.

## Montgomery City

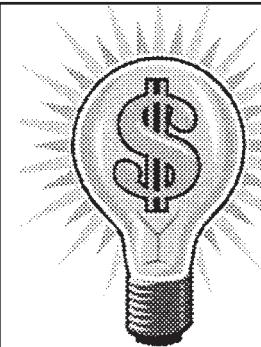
David Gaines has joined the *Mont-  
gomery Standard* as sports writer. Gaines  
also works as a broadcaster for KMCR  
radio. He does basketball play-by-play  
for the station.

This is Gaines' first journalism effort.  
He has worked as a football and basket-  
ball referee the past several years and  
continues to pursue that activity.

Gaines and his wife, Dara, live outside  
of Jonesburg with their seven children,  
ages 2 through 15.

Gaines also is president of Cavalier

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Asset Management, a St. Louis-based company. He serves on the Montgomery County R-II School Board and as deputy fire chief of Jonesburg-High Hill Fire Protection District.

#### ✓ **Jackson**

Gina Bader has been named publisher of *The Cash-Book Journal*.



**Gina Bader**  
named publisher  
of *Cash-Book  
Journal*.

Gerald Jones, owner of the paper and president of Jackson Publishing Co., Inc., announced the promotions of Bader and of David Bloom to assistant publisher.

Jones is presiding commissioner of Cape Girardeau County.

Bader started at the weekly while in high school in the circulation department. She remains vice president and secretary of the publishing company. She is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State and is working on a master's degree.

Bloom joined the paper about 17 years ago after serving as editor of *The Democrat News* in Fredericktown for 11 years. He is a graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism and a past president of the Southeast Missouri Press Association.

#### ✓ **Smithville**

Jeff Adkins, formerly editor of *The Kearney Courier*, has been named editor of *The Smithville Herald*. Both weeklies are owned by the St. Joseph News-Press Gazette Co.

Adkins is a native of Emporia, Kan. He has 15 years in the newspaper business.

*The Herald* news staff includes Debra Dittmer, features editor, and Anita Renee Langemach, sports editor.

Adkins, 35, is married and lives in Kansas City, North. He has worked for *The Emporia (Kan.) Gazette*, *The Winfield (Kan.) Daily Courier* and the *Independence Examiner*.

#### ✓ **Rolla**

Seth Sowers, 26, the son of *Daily News* publisher Stephen E. Sowers, has joined the newspaper as sports editor. He replaced longtime sports editor Dave Roberts, who retired last summer.

Reporter Bill E. Morrison served as interim sports editor.

Sowers is a graduate of Duke University. He previously worked for Mizzou Sports Properties in Columbia, where he helped promote University athletics.

Jennifer Hynes and Jeremy Copeland remain on the sports news staff of the *Daily News*.

#### ✓ **Stockton**

Jana Hendricks has joined the staff of the *Cedar County Republican* as office manager.

She replaced Becky Jones, who took a new position in Bolivar with Community Publishers of Missouri Inc., which owns the Stockton and Bolivar papers.



**Jana Hendricks** is the office manager for the *Cedar County Republican*.

#### ✓ **Mountain View**

*The Standard News* has a new publisher and editor, effective Jan. 1.

Tianna Brooks is the new publisher. She and her husband, David, and young daughter are natives of Mountain View. She graduated from Southwest Baptist University with a degree in education and is broker-associate for a real estate agency.

Betty Womack is the new editor. She has been with the newspaper for two years. Womack and her husband, Cecil, and two children are natives of the Birch Tree and Mountain View areas.

The newspaper office now is at 1004 East Highway 60 in Mountain View.

#### ✓ **St. Joseph**

Patrick J. King was hired as an advertising specialist at the *St. Joseph News-Press*. He previously worked as a senior art director and photo editor with LPI Media in Los Angeles.

King graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute and did graduate work at Parsons School of Design in New York.



**Patrick J. King**  
has worked or  
studied on both  
coasts.

#### ✓ **Kennett**

Bud Hunt, publisher of the *Daily Dunklin Democrat* in Kennett, has been named publisher of *The Daily Statesman* in Dexter, the *Delta News Citizen* in Malden and the *North Stoddard Countian* newspaper, which serves Advance and Bloomfield.

He succeeds Barbara Hill, publisher of the Delta North properties for Rust Communications, who retired Jan. 31.

Hill began her career with the *Dexter Statesman* in 1962 as a reporter. She was editor before becoming advertising manager in 1974.

In 1991 she became publisher of the Dexter and Kennett daily newspapers and also assumed the publisher's duties when Malden, Bloomfield and Advance were added to the Delta properties.

Hunt has been publisher of the Kennett newspaper since 1994. Before that, he was editor of the newspaper.

The Delta North newspapers are a part of Rust Communications, which includes 17 daily papers and 30 weekly newspapers as well as numerous shoppers and specialty publications in seven states.

#### ✓ **Atlanta, Ga.**

Rachel Conger, daughter of Phil and Kathy Conger of the *Bethany Republican-Clipper*, has moved from Albuquerque to Atlanta, where she started work Dec. 15 with the *Journal-Constitution* as a page designer. □

## Newspaper In Education report

# Another free tab to download

New serial story, "Black Thunder," ready for your readers

**W**hat's Growin' On In Missouri?

Agriculture is important to Missouri, and Missouri makes a significant contribution to feeding our nation and world.

Did you know Missouri is home to 108,000 farms — second in number only to Texas.

And Missouri is a leading state in beef and dairy cattle, as well as poultry and egg production.

Missouri is the second largest exporter of pork, and our total production accounts for about 9 percent of the total world supply.

These are just a few of the facts and figures highlighted in our newest MPA Newspaper In Education project "What's Growin' On in Missouri."

This month we're releasing a 16-page tabloid section available to Missouri newspapers at no cost. This material will be available on-line in pdf format, or on CD for a \$5 shipping fee.

The back cover of this tabloid is available for your newspaper to seek sponsorship of the section.

We're also working on an in-paper series with an abbreviated version of the same information. This series should be available soon, and we'll highlight it as one of our fall programs.



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

book.

Sample chapters and contracts for "Black Thunder" are now available on our website, [mopress.com](http://mopress.com). Link to NIE and then to our Serial Story pages.

### Part Three in Civic Series Ready

The third in our four-part high school civics series on landmark Supreme Court Cases will soon be on-line.

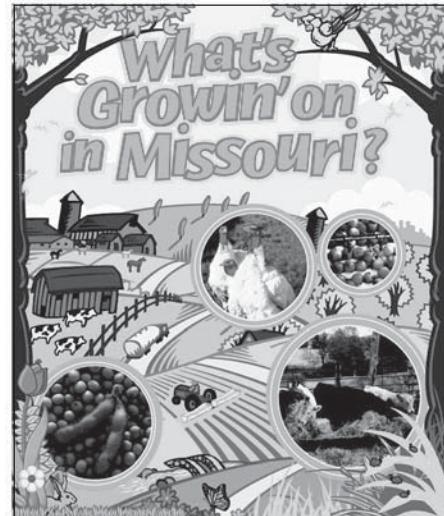
This project is a partnership with the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

### New Serial Story Debuts

Missouri Press Foundation has released its 14th serial story, "Black Thunder," written by Kay Hively and illustrated by Billie Goforth-Stewart.

When his big brother becomes one of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, Joey Cooper gets a front-row seat to an important episode in American history. He watches as some of the first black men in America are allowed to serve their country as fighter pilots. Joey also learns about one of America's greatest scientists, George Washington Carver. In this new eight-part serial, Joey uses his vivid imagination to soar through the skies, creating the sound of Black Thunder.

Prior to the release of this story, MPF retired "Hannah's Diary." Plans are being made to turn our first story into a children's



This is the cover of the new NIE tabloid "What's Growin' on in Missouri?" The tab can be downloaded from [mopress.com](http://mopress.com) or ordered on a CD for \$5, which covers shipping.

The question, "Should participation in extracurricular activities trigger drug testing," is presented in this quarter's feature looking at the *Vernonia v. Acton* and *Pottawatomie v. Earls* cases.

The final part in this school year's series will be available for Law Day, May 1, and will address *Brown vs. Board of Education*. This year marks the 50th anniversary of that ruling.

This project is a partnership with The Missouri Bar. To find these features on our website, visit [mopress.com](http://mopress.com) and link to the NIE page. The civics series is posted under the "Newspaper Features" link.



When his big brother becomes one of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, Joey Cooper gets a front row seat to an important episode in American history. He watches as some of the first black men in America are allowed to serve their country as fighter pilots. Joey also learns about one of America's greatest scientists, George Washington Carver. In this new eight-part serial, Joey uses his vivid imagination to soar through the skies, creating the sound of Black Thunder.

(Begins Date)  
(Logo)

## NIE Week March 1-5

Newspaper In Education Week is celebrated the first week in March. Each year, the Newspaper Association of America Foundation produces a teacher guide and other complimentary material and makes it available to all newspapers.

Through a special arrangement with NAA, Missouri Press has purchased the material and will post it on-line for free download by any MPA newspaper.

The goal of NIE Week remains to reinforce a positive and relevant lifetime reading habit in students by engaging them with an authentic text — the newspaper.

This year's theme is "Just Think!" and focuses on helping students develop higher-level thinking skills using the newspaper.

NAA encourages newspapers to make copies of the teacher guide for your teachers to use with your newspaper. There also are ads for use in promoting reading and NIE.

To find this information on our website, visit [mopress.com](http://mopress.com) and link to the NIE page. We will post these features under the "Important News" heading.

## 100th Birthday of Dr. Seuss

Dr. Seuss' birthday is celebrated each March 2 as part of Read Across America activities. This year marks the "Seussentennial." NAA worked with the Seuss Estate to create a writing contest your newspaper may adapt. If you would like more information on this contest, please send me an e-mail ([dawn.kitchell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dawn.kitchell@sbcglobal.net)).

Two years ago, Missouri Press created an in-paper feature for this celebration called "Reading Across Missouri" that offers newspaper activities tied to Dr. Seuss books. This feature is still available on our website and would be another great way

to commemorate the celebration in your community.

## New Fundraising Opportunity

*MissouriLife Magazine* is offering another opportunity to raise funds for Newspaper In Education programs with its latest Lewis and Clark publication.

*MissouriLife's* new book: "Lewis and Clark's Journey Across Missouri" features beautiful four-color photography, maps and expedition excerpts.

Presented in 8.5 x 11 inch-format with 116 pages, the book includes 17 chapters, including a day-by-day account of Lewis and Clark's journey along the Missouri River as well as interesting stops for visitors today.

Authored by Brett Dufur and other notable Missouri Lewis and Clark experts, "Lewis and Clark's Journey Across Missouri" has a cover price of \$24.95. Your newspaper can order as few as 20 copies of the book at the discounted rate of \$11 each, including shipping and handling. Reselling the books offers you a profit of \$13.95 per book. If you order 50 or more your price is \$10 each.

Unsold books may be returned to *MissouriLife* for a refund. All your newspaper pays is return shipping costs.

For more information or to order books, call 1-800-492-2593, ext. 106, or visit [missourilife.com/nie](http://missourilife.com/nie) to order online. *MissouriLife* publisher Greg Wood will send you a review copy if you would like to see the publication before ordering. □

## Think about...



Take a look at the front section of this newspaper. You'll find stories about the United States and its relations with other countries. You'll find stories about the way the president and Congress are taking care of our nation. There's an important reason for publishing this news. The newspaper is providing information to you, a citizen, so you can think about decisions the government makes on your behalf. It is your responsibility to evaluate the actions of the president and Congress. If you disagree with those actions, you can take action yourself. You can write to the president or to your congressional representative and senators to express your opinions. If you disagree with decisions made by the president or your state and local representatives, you can work to have them voted out of office in the next election. Newspapers give you information — and power.

### ACTIVITY:

**Read a news story about the United States' interactions with another country. Identify comments made by elected officials about the relationship between the two nations. Put a check next to the statements with which you agree. Show your list to family members or friends and ask them to identify the statements with which they agree. Discuss any differences you may have.**



# Tornadoes of 2003 documented

## Sale of books will benefit long-term recovery efforts

**E**ditor Kim McCully of the *Aurora Advertiser* sent this note and photo to Missouri Press. They're about the publication of a book about the tornadoes that struck Southwest Missouri last spring.

Here is McCully's note:

"We worked hard for several months to compile and condense the information submitted by our readers. The first-person, narrative accounts of the funnels and the devastation that ensued speak for themselves.

"We didn't want to make money off of the tragedy; however, we did want to document history and pay tribute to those who died, as well as to those who survived by putting together something a little more substantial than a special edition newspaper.

"We will be donating the proceeds to the long-term recovery committee's efforts here in Lawrence County. A local man, David DeMoss, whose son videotaped the storm, has already given us almost \$2,000 for our victims' fund.

"To date, we will be donating at least another \$500 soon and as we sell more books, we'll be donating more. Our ini-



Reporter Michelle McCully and editor Kim McCully look over copies of "Twisting in the Wind: Reflections on Tragedy/A Tribute to Triumph" in the office of the *Aurora Advertiser*. (*Aurora Advertiser* photo)

tial cost of the first 500 books was \$25 each, which does not include our time and labor and materials that have been involved.

"I have often scoffed at journalists who put themselves in danger to get that good photograph. Somehow, the funnels must have sucked my own brain out of

my head as the funnels darted back and forth, hovering over houses about 50 yards from my home on Aurora's north side.

"I stood in the street snapping away as my ex-husband screamed at me to take cover with him, my son and some neighbors in our cellar.

"The tornado then ripped a few metal panels from atop a nearby MFA gas co-op station and the hair on my arms stood on end. I decided it was time to run and I did just that as the tornado veered north on Lover's Lane and began its swath of destruction between Aurora and Marionville, hurling debris high into the sky as it went.

"In covering the storms in southwest Missouri in recent months, I have realized even more that: Life is precious. We all matter. Miracles do happen. Faith still holds. Things can be replaced and hearts can be mended. And as long as we're traveling in the company of those we love, we are truly fortunate."

If you would like to order a copy of the tornado book, send a check for \$45.64 (\$39.95 plus \$5.69 for tax and shipping) to Aurora Advertiser, PO Box 509, Aurora, MO 65605. □

## Rust buys stake in Zimmer radio stations

**C**APE GIRARDEAU — Zimmer Radio Group plans to sell 17 of its 32 stations to the newly formed Mississippi River Radio, the companies said. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Rust Communications, also based in Cape Girardeau, is among the investors in Mississippi River Radio. Rust owns and operates more than 50 newspapers, including the *Southeast Missourian* in Cape Girardeau and several others in

Missouri.

Rust will invest in up to 20 percent of the equity of Mississippi River Radio.

Stations being sold are in Cape Girardeau, Poplar Bluff and Sikeston/Malden in Missouri, and in Carbondale/Marion in Illinois.

Zimmer Radio Group, based in Cape Girardeau, is owned by brothers Don, James, John, Jerry, Tom and David Zimmer. Thirteen of its remaining 15 stations are in Missouri; the other two are

in Lawrence, Kan.

"We searched for a company that would continue our focus on the local community and retain our philosophy of public service," James Zimmer said.

The principal shareholder in Mississippi River Radio is Virginia-based Max Media, which operates radio and television stations in smaller markets. The deal must be approved by the Federal Communications Commission. □

# Obituaries

Poplar Bluff

## Henry Wolpers

89 — Former owner

**H**enry Millington "Hank" Wolpers, a former part-owner of the *Poplar Bluff Daily American Republic*, died Dec. 27, 2003, in Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

Mr. Wolpers earned an engineering degree at UM-Rolla and worked for a number of years on major construction projects around the country.

In 1952, after the death of his father, John H. Wolpers, Hank Wolpers settled in Poplar Bluff with his family. He became the plant and equipment manager at the newspaper, which was run by his two brothers and his brother-in-law.

Mr. Wolpers retired when the family sold the newspaper in 1988. His wife, Marianna, died in 2002. Survivors are two daughters and two grandchildren.

Kansas City

## Hugh Gordon Hadley

91 — Retired *Star* editor

**H**ugh Gordon Hadley, an editor and columnist for *The Kansas City Star* for more than 30 years, died Dec. 13, 2003, at a health center in Kansas City.

Mr. Hadley joined *The Star* as a reporter in 1945. He soon became a copy editor on the city desk for the morning paper, *The Times*, where he served most of his career. He was named *The Star's* About Town columnist in 1974 and he retired in 1977.

Survivors are his wife, Freda; two brothers, four children, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Columbia

## Ben Johnson

53 — Former *Missourian* editor

**B**en Johnson, managing editor of *The Columbia Missourian* from 1985-1990, died from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound Dec. 22, 2003,

in Huntsville, Ala.

Mr. Johnson joined MU as director of the Multicultural Management Program, which trained professional journalists to work with and manage people of different cultures. He replaced Brian Brooks as managing editor in 1987.

Mr. Johnson worked at the *Detroit Free Press* before joining MU and at the *St. Petersburg Times* after leaving.

He leaves his wife, Mary Bullard-Johnson; two daughters and two grandsons.

Fredericktown

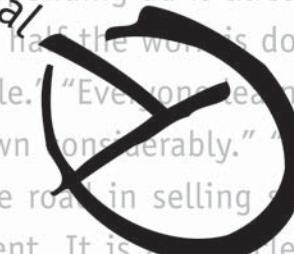
## Helen A. Gamblin

80 — Office manager

**H**elen A. Gamblin, who joined the Fredericktown *Democrat News* in 1955, died Jan. 5, 2004.

Mrs. Gamblin was the proofreader, bookkeeper and production overseer for the newspaper as its management passed from publisher to publisher. She retired in 2000. □

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"It's quick, easy and simple." "Spec Ads" "... a great tool!" "... download the ad, change the information and you're done." "very convenient being able to access it at different locations." "The fact that you can use a concept from the ideas in the Spec Ads Library and modify it to fit your own ad is a great feature." "EVERYbody loves it!" "When I'm on deadline it helps me with ideas and the corresponding ad is already built for me." "Convenient when on tight deadlines because half the work is done for you." "The number of hours saved each week is remarkable." "Everyone learned how to use it quickly and production time has been cut down considerably." "It's one more tool that will make my rep more efficient on the road in selling Spec ads." "It's really beneficial." "Over all the quality is excellent. It is a very clean site." "It's one of the best resources right now! I don't think I'll use it." 

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

• "Production time has been cut down considerably."

## Housekeeping

# Call will come soon from committee chair

### Cluttered calendar needs constant surveillance

**T**ake your eye off the calendar this time of year and something will slip past. With so much happening, the chore becomes remembering to look at the schedule often enough.

Technology can help, if you're so inclined. Your computer calendar will remind you of meetings and events. That's just what we need, another intrusion when we're trying to concentrate.

**E**xpect to be asked soon to be on one of three MPA+20 long-ranging planning committees. MPA President Gary Sosniecki summarized his proposal for this effort at the Jan. 15 board meeting in St. Joseph. He also explains it in his magazine column in this issue.

The committees and their chairs and co-chairs are:

✓ **Dollars and Cents:** John Spaar of Odessa and Wendell Lenhart of Trenton.

✓ **Membership and Leadership:** Steve Oldfield of Adrian and Bill Miller, Sr., of Washington.

✓ **Relationships and Partnerships:** Dave Berry and Jim Sterling.

This project will advance two of Sosniecki's goals for his year as presidency. It will provide a peek into the future of MPA, and it will provide a means to give more members a voice in MPA affairs.

Committee chairs will be contacting MPA members to recruit them to their committees. Be ready for the invitation, and seriously consider joining the effort to make your association better.

**A** Day at the Capitol sign-up form is enclosed. You'll also receive it in the Bulletin. Get signed up by Feb. 13 for this always-interesting event. It's free, and

you get lunch in the Governor's Mansion and a look at state government in action, such as it is.

In the meantime, as you read news from the Capitol in the next couple of weeks, jot down a question or two for the sessions with officials. With bills being worked over, campaigns being waged and budgets being crafted, questions abound.

**T**wo judging days approach. We'll grade the Tennessee Press Association's ad contest Feb. 26 and the newspaper contest March 18. Both sessions will be at the Holiday Inn Select in Columbia.

Do what you can to help with those chores.

Tennessee Press will judge your newspaper contest this summer. (Rules for the contest will be in the March magazine. They'll also be on [mopress.com](http://mopress.com).)

The Contest Committee, under the chairmanship of Dan Wehmer of Seymour, will meet Thursday, Feb. 5, to discuss this year's rules. If you've got any suggestions for the contest, email or call them in to the MPA office and we'll see that Dan and the committee see them.

**I**nformation has been sent to newspapers about the Missouri and AP editors meeting to be held April 1-2 in St. Louis. This magazine also has that information.

Gov. Bob Holden will speak at the Friday awards luncheon of the Associated Press Managing Editors.

The Missouri Society of Newspaper Editors has been privileged to have the governor speak at its annual meeting since the group was founded more than

10 years ago. Succeeding governors have been agreeable to maintaining that tradition, to our benefit.

**S**unshine Week is coming, the first such observance in Missouri. Get the material off the website, [mopress.com](http://mopress.com), and participate in this observance of our Sunshine Law.

Tell your readers how fortunate they are to have a state law that declares it is the policy of this state that meetings of public officials and records of public agencies are open to them. They pay the bills and they suffer the consequences of governance, so they've got the statutory right to attend meetings and peruse records.

Remind them that secrecy protects the government from its citizens, while openness protects citizens from their government.

Sunshine Sunday is Feb. 8; Sunshine Week Feb. 8-14.

**M**opress.com also has some new material for Newspaper In Education programs. You can download a tab about Missouri agriculture, or "Black Thunder," Kay Hively's latest serial story.

You still can get the Lewis & Clark tab and series, too. That material will remain timely for a couple of years, so use it when you can.

NIE Week is March 1-5, a great excuse for focusing on that tremendous program for a few days.

**N**orthwest Missouri Press Association presented me with its Craig Watkins Friend of Northwest Press Award at its meeting in St. Joseph. That was a wonderful surprise.

Many of the newspaper people in that part of the state are old friends. My wife, Sharon, and I were active in Northwest Press when we published the *Times Observer* in Oregon. Craig Watkins, the namesake of the award, printed our paper for a couple of years at his plant in Cameron.

Craig died of cancer a few years back. He was a good friend and a loyal newspaper associate. The Northwest Press award is named well, and it's an honor to be chosen to receive it. Thanks to Northwest Press and to Phil Conger of Bethany for his kind presentation. □



MPA editor **Kent Ford** can be reached by email at [kford@socket.net](mailto:kford@socket.net).

# Nostalgia

February  
1944

Missouri  
Press News

## New London

The *Ralls County Record* suspended publication Jan. 28 when J. Porter Fisher, Jr., publisher, reported for duty with the navy Jan. 29.

Publication of the *Record* was suspended by Thomas R. Dodge, founder, in 1855 in order that he might serve as a soldier in the Civil War.

## Breckenridge

W.W. Sage of Liberty bought the *Breckenridge Bulletin* from J.T. Kenower last month. Due to failing health, Kenower was forced to give up his work. He had published the *Bulletin* for 48 years.

## Wellsville

Charles T. Deiter of Fulton has purchased the *Wellsville Optic-News* from Mrs. Robert Jacobi. Mrs. Jacobi has published the paper since the death of her husband about a year ago.

## Mexico

Cpl. Franklyn Barclay, former staff photographer for the *Mexico Ledger*, is pursuing a hobby and at the same time serving in the armed forces. During his boyhood in Mexico he had experience in training pigeons and is now a member of the Pigeon Company, training carrier pigeons, at Minter Field, Calif.

## Poplar Bluff

Special recognition was given to John H. Wolpers, publisher of the *Poplar Bluff Daily American Republic*. He is believed to have been the first scoutmaster in America, having organized and directed a troupe in 1909, a year before scouting was officially introduced in this country.

## Columbia

Lt. Earl F. Pollock, a former editor of the *Missouri Press News*, has been reported missing during a routine training flight in the South Pacific.

## Mexico

The *Mexico Ledger* sponsored a "Name the Bomber" contest in cooperation with the Audrain County War Finance Committee this month. All purchasers of \$25 Series "E" war bonds were entitled to mail to the *Ledger* one choice of a name for the Flying Fortress which is to be purchased by Audrain County through war bond sales.

## Unionville

The *Unionville Republican* froze its circulation Feb. 9. No new subscriptions, except to persons in the armed forces, are being accepted. A waiting list has been established for new subscribers.

The difficulty in obtaining additional employees, additional taxes, the increased cost of production, and conservation of newsprint were given as reasons for freezing the *Republican's* circulation.

## Amsterdam

The *Amsterdam Border Banner* suspended publication with the issue of Feb. 11 for the duration and perhaps longer. Ralph O. Fritts, editor, reported for induction into the navy Feb. 18.

January  
1954

Missouri  
Press News

## Columbia

The first meeting of the new board of directors of the Missouri Press Association was somewhat disastrous for at least two members Jan. 24.

Louie Bowman of King City only got five miles from town when his car went into a tailspin on icy pavement and ended up in a ditch.

Charlie Blanton of Sikeston got almost to Columbia when ice caused his car to get out of control and scoot down a line of fence posts. He had to take the train home.

## Pierce City

State Sen. Meredith "Pete" Garten, publisher of the *Pierce City Leader Journal*, has announced his candidacy for re-

election on the Republican ticket. He is presently concluding his first term.

## Sikeston

The *Sikeston Herald* was sold, effective Feb. 1, to a company composed of the C.L. Blanton family and the Sikeston Standard Publishing Co., which publishes the daily *Sikeston Standard*.

## Clinton

The *Montrose Tidings*, a weekly newspaper published by D.D. Scroggs and his son, David Scroggs Jr., has been sold effective Feb. 11 to the publishers of the *Clinton Eye*, C.W. Dickgrafe and Floyd H. Pinkston.

February  
1964

Missouri  
Press News

## Houston

The front page of the *Houston Herald* and *Houston Republican* reporting the assassination of President Kennedy has been included in a slide presentation of newspaper front pages on the President's death, prepared at the University of Iowa School of Journalism at Iowa City.

The slide presentation will be used for instructional purposes and will also be a part of the school's collection of notable materials in the history of journalism.

## Warrensburg

Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Taubert, publishers of the *Warrensburg Standard-Herald* since 1924, have sold the weekly to three employees: William J. Kirby, Floyd Rich and Richard E. Thurston.

The *Standard-Herald* was organized in 1865 by two former Union Army officers, S.K. Hall and N.B. Klaine.

## Clinton

The use of a lost and found window at the office of the *Clinton Eye* apparently is paying rich dividends, at least this probably is the feeling of general manager C.W. Dickgrafe.

Recently, Dickgrafe misplaced one of his overshoes and all but accused his cohorts of wearing an extra one. That is, until Dickgrafe found the missing overshoe in the lost and found window. □

## 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

EDITOR/REPORTER needed for new Lifestyle section of South Suburban Journals. Duties would include some feature writing and coordination of copy for a variety of pages within the South Lifestyle section, such as consumer news, faith, weddings, health. This section is expected to grow and the position offers a talented writer/editor an opportunity to shine as part of the Suburban Journals of Greater St. Louis, the nation's largest community newspaper organization. The South Journals are delivered to more than 150,000 homes in South St. Louis City and South St. Louis County. Send resumés and clips to Managing Editor Buck Collier, South Suburban Journals, 4210 Chippewa, St. Louis, MO, 63116. 1-21

REPORTERS: Award winning daily newspaper in Columbia, MO has openings for a Business Reporter and General Assignment Reporter. Business Reporter responsibilities include reporting and writing business stories of local interest. Applicants must have solid deadline-oriented news-writing experience or a journalism degree. Both positions are regular full-time with benefits including health insurance, vacation pay, sick pay and 401(k). Send resumé and clips to the Columbia Daily Tribune, Attention: Personnel, P.O. Box 798, Columbia, MO 65205 or email srinehart@tribmail.com EOE / Drugfree Workplace. 1-21

CIRCULATION SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR: Seeking top circulation software manager/analyst. Responsibilities at this 24,000-daily circulation newspaper include coordination of circulation computer systems and technology projects, data management, training of users and data analysis. Minimum requirements: BS in Computer Science or equivalent experience, three years circulation experience, management experience, proficiency in Crystal, Access and Excel software, knowledge of Oracle and DSI circulation software a

plus. The Columbia Daily Tribune is family owned and offers a very nice benefits package. Either mail or e-mail resumé and cover letter with salary requirements and history to: Columbia Daily Tribune, Attention Personnel, 101 N. 4th Street, Columbia, MO 65201 or email srinehart@tribmail.com. EOE / Drugfree Workplace. 1-21

AD MANAGER: We've lost our ad manager! A promotion to publisher of a sister newspaper has left us looking for a key leader at the Duncan Banner, a 9,500 circulation six-day daily. The Banner is located in southwest Oklahoma, within easy driving distance of Oklahoma City and Dallas. The ideal candidate will bring energy, enthusiasm, and a proven track record of building, motivating and coaching a team of sales professionals to reach and surpass company goals in a diversity of offerings while being personally productive in expanding advertising and marketing reach of the Banner, the Waurika News-Democrat, a TMC, and our recently redesigned web site. Resumés should be sent to Floyd Jernigan, publisher, via email at fjernigan@cnhi.com or to the above at the Duncan Banner, P.O. Box 1268, Duncan, Okla., 73534-1268. 1-7

### AD SALES: **TMissouri Press News, February 2004** Volunteer Today for MPA

Every MPA member is invited to sign up to help lead MPA this year and into the future. Sign up to be a member of a strategic planning task force and/or MPA committee. "MPA+20: Pressing Ahead" is the strategic planning process, approved by the MPA Board of Directors. The task forces this year will look at MPA, inside and out, and help map MPA's future.

The planning groups will meet two or three times during the year, some via conference telephone call, with final reports due in September at the MPA Annual Convention in Springfield.

**Three Task Forces are available for your participation. If you wish to join a Task Force, mark it.**

1. Dollars and Cents Task Force. John Spaar, Chair; Wendell Lenhart, Co-chair. Topics: Dues structure -- Advertising/Missouri Press Service -- Headquarters staffing -- Physical plant -- Investments -- MPA Bylaws -- Other

2. Membership and Leadership

### JOB WANTED

ics: Mission Statement for Missouri Press Association -- Retaining and growing membership -- Keeping MPA relevant for independent newspapers and group-owned newspapers -- Member services -- Development of future newspaper owners -- Development of future MPA leaders -- Other

3. Relationships and Partnerships Task Force. Dave Berry, Chair; Jim Sterling, Co-chair.

Topics: MPA's relationship with School of Journalism -- MPA's relationship with NNA, NAA, MSNE, AP, ISWNE, MAMA (ad managers), MCMA (college media), MCMA (circulation managers) -- MPA's relationship with news media groups/potential coalition allies

### FOR SALE

dation -- Regional press organizations: NW, SE, Ozark, Show-Me Press -- Other

**Also, you are invited to volunteer for these MPA Committees:**

MPA Legislative Committee, Charlie Fischer, Chair. Directs MPA legislative activities.

**Go to [mopress.com](http://mopress.com) to read the ads that were too late to make this publication.**

MPA Convention Committee, Helen Sosniecki, Chair. Plans convention activities.

Missouri Press News, February 2004

## Missouri Newspaper Organizations

**NORTHWEST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, Kay Wilson, Maryville; First Vice President, Jamey Honeycutt, Cameron; Second Vice President, Steve Tinnen, Plattsburg; Secretary, Kathy Conger, Bethany; Treasurer, Chris Boultinghouse, Mound City. Directors: Dennis Ellsworth, St. Joseph; 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.

**OZARK 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 Durremeh, 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, Charlie Fisher, Sedalia; 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

### February

- 5 — MPA Better Newspaper Contest Committee meeting
- 8 — Sunshine Sunday
- 8-14 — Sunshine Week
- 26 — MPA judges Tennessee Ad Contest

### March

- 1-5 — Newspaper in Education Week
- 4 — MPA/AP Day at the Capitol
- 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
- 16 — Southeast Missouri Press Association meeting, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau

### May

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

### June

- 3 — MPA/MPS Board meeting, Holiday Inn, Lake Ozark
- 3-5 — Show-Me Press Association meeting, Holiday Inn, Lake Ozark
- 4 — MPA Porter Fisher Golf Classic, Sycamore Creek Golf Course, Osage Beach
- 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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**Missouri's Electric Cooperatives**

Touchstone Energy® The Touchstone Energy logo consists of three stylized human figures in blue, orange, and green, standing on a circular path.