

January 2011

Missouri Press NEWS



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at the Capitol, Feb. 10**



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2011 President, Missouri Press Association

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Meetings soon pay for themselves

Calendar already offers opportunities for you and your staff

What's an old print salesman doing writing a column for the Missouri Press magazine? I've asked myself that, too.

The answer is: "It's my turn."

I started going to the Missouri Advertising Managers' Association meetings in the early '70s as a salesman and later ad manager for the *Columbia Daily Tribune*.

I continued attending the MAMA meeting in the '80s representing the *Mexico Ledger*, going through the offices and ending up as president in 1983-84.

In 1990 I started attending MPA conventions as publisher. I have developed friendships and networks that have served me very well over the past 40 years and have appreciated and heeded advice from both peers and mentors.

The association has been invaluable to my career and should be for you and your newspaper.

I urge you to attend your regional press meeting. Northwest Press Association will meet Jan. 20-21 in St. Joseph. Ozark Press will be in Branson March 17-18, and Southeast Press will be June 3 in Cape Girardeau. Show-Me Press will set its date soon.

The advertising managers' meeting will be in Kansas City April 14-15. The featured speaker will be Tim Smith. He comes highly recommended from press associations in Nebraska, Illinois and Oregon and will talk about a range of advertising topics and sales challenges.

Just one good idea from Smith and your meeting is paid for. Russell Viers will also be back. Viers is a certified Adobe trainer and will show your staff how to do their jobs better, easier and faster.

Thursday, Feb. 10, will be MPA/AP Day at the Capitol. Missouri Press plans to host a reception on Wednesday

evening and will have a block of hotel rooms.

This is your chance to visit lawmakers in an informal setting. We do not have speakers confirmed for Thursday but will have lunch in the Governor's Mansion as usual.

Attendance at the annual Convention has decreased slightly the last couple of years, and we can blame the economy for much of that. Many other press associations are suffering worse declines in attendance.

That is a testament to the hard work by our association, bringing in top-notch speakers who discuss issues affecting all of us. It has been said over and over that the meetings will pay for themselves.

If you listened to Jeff Greene's "90 Promotions in 90 Minutes" and couldn't find an idea that will work in your market, it's time to close your doors. (Greene, by the way, will present at the Northwest Press meeting this month.)

It is truly an honor to serve as your president, and I do not accept the position lightly. Kevin Jones did an outstanding job last year, I have big shoes to fill. Some said the October meeting was the best ever with a great lineup of speakers mixed with excellent entertainment and fun. It will be hard to match his disco night.

Phyllis and I will work to make 2011 an exciting and successful year for the Missouri Press. This year's Convention will be in Branson, and Phyllis is already working on ideas for a spouses' program. We not only want an outstanding array of speakers that will make our papers more successful, we want a fun convention you just can't afford to miss.

Hope to see you at the meetings.



Joe May
The Mexico Ledger
MPA President

The association has been invaluable to my career and should be for you and your newspaper.



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Marketing expert to be at NW Press

Jeff Greene, who wowed his audience at the MPA Convention in October, will speak during a day of advertising and marketing training on Jan. 20 at the annual Northwest Missouri Press Association meeting.

The meeting will be Thursday and Friday, Jan. 20-21, at the Holiday Inn Downtown in St. Joseph.

Greene's two sessions at the Convention received high marks in the post-Convention survey. Newspapers in the region should not let this excellent training opportunity pass them by.

Greene is a former longtime vice president of the Newspaper Association of America. He is a retail advertising specialist who heads his own marketing company, The Greene Group. At the Convention at The Lodge of Four Seasons he spoke on "Successful

Ad Selling in Hard Times" and "60 Ads in 60 Minutes."

Greene spends most of his time conducting customized seminars and inter-active workshops on retail sales development throughout the U.S. After living in Arizona for 10 years, he relocated to Idaho six years ago.



Jeff Greene

Greene received his degree in marketing from Arizona State University. He was a manager and buyer for Macy's in Kansas City; store manager for The May Company in Los Angeles; store manager for Dayton's in St. Paul; and vice-president/director of regional stores for Diamond's in Phoenix.

Greene also has been a consultant to Lee Enterprises, owner of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, the *Suburban Journals* and many other publications.

You don't need to be a northwest Missouri newspaper to send your staffers to the Northwest Missouri Press meeting. All are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of this training.

Thursday will be a full day of advertising training followed by the traditional NW Press evening activities, which are a work in progress.


After the business meeting Friday morning, the rest of the day will be dedicated to editorial-related topics, including the popular legislative panel, luncheon and a number of editorial training sessions Friday afternoon.

The meeting will wrap up Friday evening with the traditional banquet.

Northwest Press President Matt Daugherty, publisher of the Smithville and Kearney newspapers, will preside at the meeting.

Reserve a room (\$68) at the Holiday Inn by calling (816) 279-8000.

If you have questions, contact Daugherty at (816) 389-6608 or mdaugherty@npgco.com.



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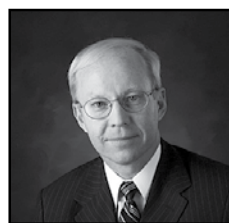
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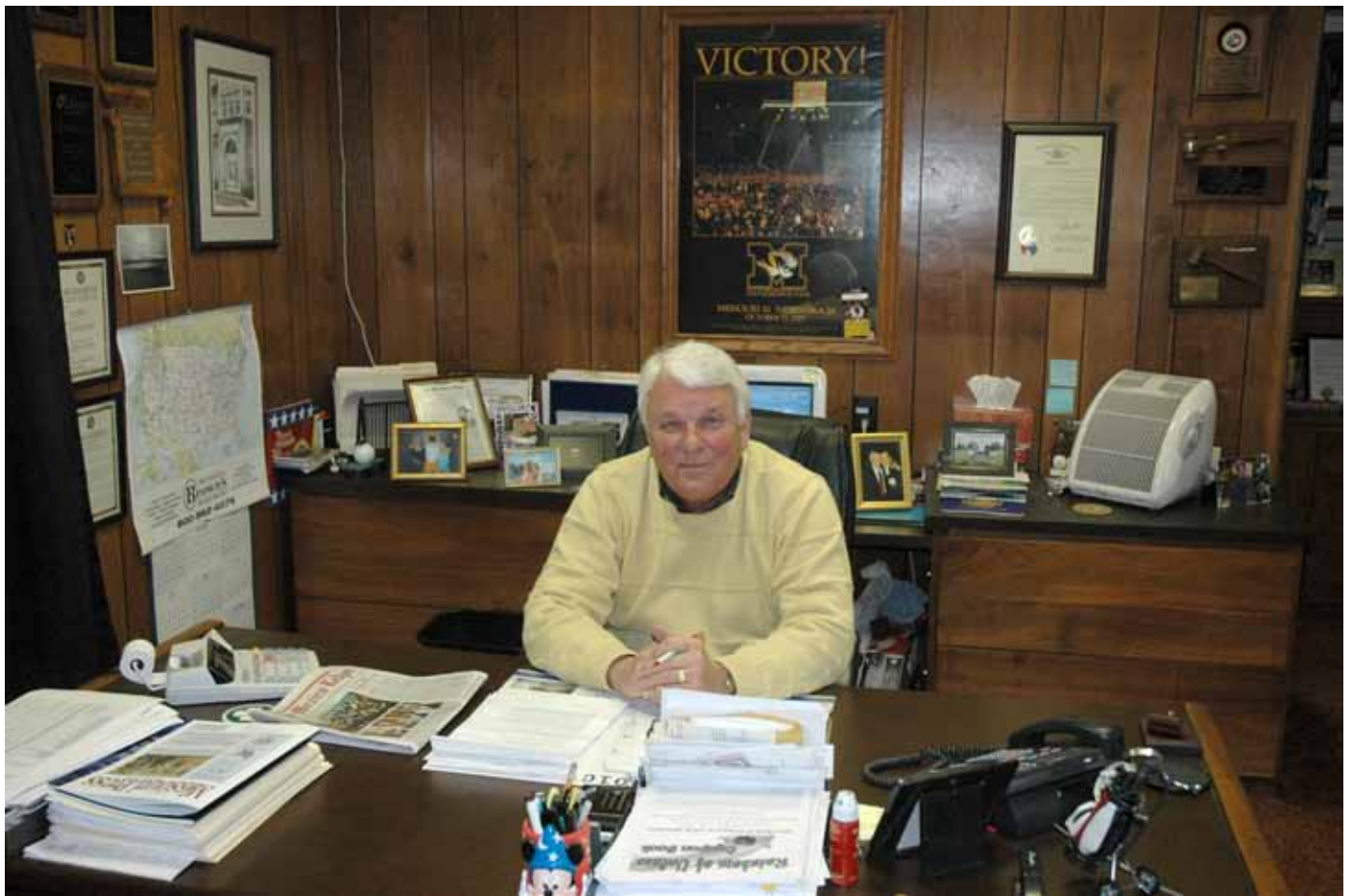
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EXPERIENCE | KNOWLEDGE | INTEGRITY



Joe May, 2011 President of the Missouri Press Association, poses in his office at *The Mexico Ledger*. Among the mementos surrounding him is, over his left shoulder, a snapshot of two of his mentors, Hank Waters, Columbia, and Robert White, his first boss in Mexico.

Joe May takes over as President

Mexico Ledger publisher relies on MPA relationships

Joe May left the *Columbia Daily Tribune* in 1977 to be the advertising director at *The Mexico Ledger* and work for Robert White II, a legendary Missouri newspaperman. May became publisher of the *Ledger* in 1990.

"I've been here 33 years, which is not a record, but it's above average," May said during a mid-December interview in his office.

On Jan. 1 May succeeded Kevin Jones as president of the Missouri Press Association. He and other officers and directors were elected at the MPA Convention in October. May served as first vice president in 2010.

May grew up in Columbia. He attended Columbia College while working for the *Tribune*, which he joined in 1970 as an ad salesman. When he

left the *Tribune*, he was its advertising manager.

Since he's been in Mexico, the name of the *Ledger's* owner has changed five times: White, Thomson, American Publishing, Liberty and finally GateHouse.

"That's not a record, but it's above average," May said.

On the map, the *Ledger* sits at the bottom of a cluster of GateHouse dailies that stretches across north Missouri: From Independence and Maryville on the left through Chillicothe, Boonville, Kirksville, Macon and Moberly to Hannibal on the right.

GateHouse recently closed down the presses at some of its newspapers. The Maryville, Chillicothe, Kirksville, Macon and Moberly papers now are

being printed in Independence and Hannibal or in Syracuse, Neb.

But in Mexico, the *Ledger's* eight-unit Goss Community continues serving a strong commercial printing business, which May manages.

"We've kept some of our commercial printing customers more than 25 years," he said. "Our very strong customer service gets credit for that. We're getting a lot of revenue from commercial printing."

The *Ledger* prints weekly newspapers from Wellsville, Montgomery City, Monroe City, Palmyra, Shelbina, Paris and Fayette. It prints the *Boonville Daily News*, the *Ad Finder*, a Mexico-based weekly shopper; and the *NEMO Trader* out of Kirksville.

Those publications upload pages to

the *Ledger's* FTP site. The *Ledger* prints the papers, inserts sections and fliers and labels the papers, which are picked up by the customers.

Other publications and advertising inserts roll off *The Ledger's* press as well.

It prints about 5,000 copies of its Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday papers, starting the press at 11:15. It prints 12,000 on Wednesdays for delivery to nonsubscribers.

"We like to get the paper printed in time to get them into vending boxes by lunchtime and into homes before dark," May said. "Some of our motor routes are four hours long."

Forty "junior carriers" and a crew of motor carriers deliver the *Ledger* in 18 towns in portions of six counties.

"Just like newspaper people all around the country, we feel that a newspaper needs to be a watchdog for its community," May said. "But a community newspaper has to be full of local names and local faces, every day. Local pictures and local stories make a community newspaper."

Mexico is a mature, stable economic market, May said. With Columbia only 30 miles away, national retailers won't open big-box stores there.

The retail base is not growing much — Mexico supports two car dealerships and three groceries — and many of the storefronts around the courthouse square house small service companies rather than retailers. But manufacturing has improved lately.

"Thirty years or so ago Mexico depended heavily upon the firebrick man-



Joe May and his wife, Phyllis, joined the pre-banquet reception at the Missouri Press Convention in October. The Mays both grew up in Columbia. They have two children, son Chuck and daughter Victoria, who both live in Columbia with their spouses and children. Chuck and Jennifer May have a 6-year-old son. Victoria and Scott Brees have a 5-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son. May attended Hickman High School and Columbia College. He served in Vietnam in 1969 during a four-year hitch in the Air Force.



The *Ledger* operates in a wide-open, compact office, with the publisher's office in one corner and the prepress area and pressroom behind the news and ad departments. Among the 18 full-time staffers are three writers working for editor Janeen Sims and two ad salespeople and an inside classified person working for ad manager Martin Keller. Four *Ledger* employees — Lyndell Farrah, 53 years; Bonnie Kay Gibson, 43 years; Brenda Fike and Jim Stanley, 38 years each, have been with the *Ledger* longer than Joe May, who has 33 years with the paper.

ufacturers. When National and A.P. Green closed, it was devastating to the community," May said. "Not only did we lose jobs, we lost our identity. We were the firebrick capital of the world.

"In the mid-'80s community leaders realized we needed a more diverse economic base. They created an industrial park, which has attracted a number of manufacturing companies. In the past few years we've seen some very positive things happening," May said.

He credits U.S. Sen. Kit Bond, a native of Mexico, for much of that. Bond helped bring the Missouri Plant Science Center and Mid America Brick to Mexico.

The Science Center is a joint project



Press foreman Lyndell Farrah hands a copy of the day's *Ledger* to Joe May. The *Ledger* prints the *Boonville Daily News*, another GateHouse newspaper, after its own run. The eight-unit Goss Community press with Suburban folder runs steadily printing weekly papers and other commercial jobs. Farrah was with the *Ledger* when the press was installed in 1970, and he's run it about every day since then, May said.

of the city, the University of Missouri and the Missouri Technology Corp. Mid America Brick opened in the site of the closed A.P. Green brick refractory with some help from state and federal agencies.

"Probably one of the highlights of my career has been bringing Barbara Bush to Mexico to speak at one of our Salute to Literacy programs," May said.

Other speakers for that event over the years have been former Missouri First Lady Jean Carnahan, Gov. Bob Holden and Sen. Bond.

Salute to Literacy focuses attention on the *Ledger's* Newspaper In Education program, which is managed by Kathy Craghead.

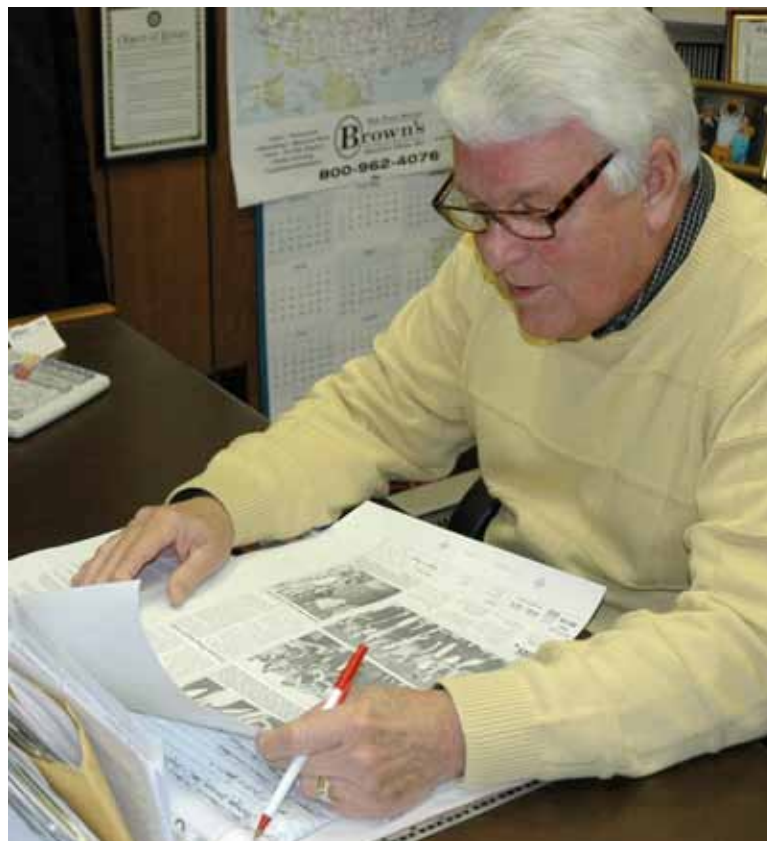
Every day, 330 students in 12 schools receive copies of the *Ledger* (720 students get papers on Tuesdays when the Mini Page runs).

"All of that is 100 percent paid for by sponsors," May said.

As president of MPA, May wants to boost attendance at meetings and try to get more advertising into more papers.

"I'm going to do all I can to encourage more of our members — publishers and their staff people — to attend MPA meetings. They'll get their money back every time!" he said.

"I'd also like to do what I can to help



May gives the front page a final check just before the 11:15 a.m. press run. The early run gets the *Ledger* into vending boxes by lunchtime and into subscribers' homes before dark, May said.

Missouri Press increase the amount of advertising it places into newspapers. I know the staff works hard to sell for us," May said. "Newspapers can help. Newspaper advertising works, and we need to redouble our efforts to tell that

story and get the word out.

"Three people shaped my newspaper career: Luke Chase, a former ad director at the *Tribune*; Hank Waters, the publisher of the *Tribune*; and Bob White. Those are three great newspa-



permen who I looked to as mentors,” May said.

They helped May develop his philosophy toward newspapering in a smaller community.

“Luke had an interesting management style. I think today it would be called management by walking around. He would walk through the office and try to catch somebody doing something right and praise him for it,” May said. “He had an incredible ability to motivate without intimidating. We wanted to be winners. Not just for ourselves, but for Luke.”

A similar atmosphere existed at the *Ledger* with Robert White at the helm.

“Some businesses today call their employees associates or other clever names,” May said. “We were Bob’s *Ledger* family. He cared about us and our families. He kept a calendar with each employee’s birthday and date of hire. He never failed to stop by your desk on those days and shake your hand and give you a handwritten note saying something like ‘It was a great day when you started at the *Ledger*.’ Maybe a little hokie, but I still have a couple of those notes tucked away in my filing cabinet,” May said.

As publisher of the *Ledger*, May projects that attitude into the community.

“I’ve ridden an elephant around the square. I kissed a pig for charity. I milked a goat at the Montgomery County Fair

One of the *Mexico Ledger*’s claims to fame is the unique facade on its building in downtown Mexico. It is designed like the front page of the newspaper. Even Ripley’s took notice and mentioned the architectural flair in one of its “Believe it or Not” volumes (photo upper left). This framed enlargement of the Ripley’s entry hangs in May’s “executive washroom.”

with my partner Gay Hagan Donaldson from the *Wellsville Optic-News*.

“I won a peddle-powered-tractor pulling contest. I lost a Mr. Legs contest. I played softball against Playboy Bunnies.

“A small-town newspaper and its publisher need to be involved in all of

the local activities. That includes serving on the boards of the Chamber, United Way, YMCA and civic clubs,” May said.

The newspaper business may have evolved into a “news dissemination” business in recent years, he said, but “we’re still the ones who gather the news.”

Joe May started at *Columbia Tribune*

From 1970 until 1976 Joe May worked as an ad salesman and then ad manager at the *Columbia Daily Tribune*. He joined *The Mexico Ledger* in 1977 as its ad director, and he became publisher in 1990.

He is a past director and president of the Missouri Advertising Managers’ Association and past president of the Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce.

May has served on the board of United Way, YMCA, Rotary Club, Mexico Country Club, Progress Mexico and the First Christian Church.



Who needs snow when you've got newspapers?

Newspapers went flying in the Carthage Middle School gym during a mock snowball fight, with the newspapers substituting for snow, during the Winter Jam on Dec. 3. Elementary schools in Carthage have similar events with seasonal themes. They give parents a chance to drop their kids off and do some shopping while the children are supervised by people they know — their teachers. The “snowball fight” also puts old newspapers to good use. (Carthage Press photo by John Hacker)

St. Louis company pays \$350 million for News-Press cable

The News-Press & Gazette Co. of St. Joseph, publisher of the *St. Joseph News-Press*, announced Nov. 8 that it had agreed to sell NPG Cable Inc. to Cequel Communications of St. Louis.

Cequel does business as Suddenlink Communications. It paid \$350 million for NPG's cable systems, internet and digital telephone service in St. Joseph, Arizona and California. NPG said virtually all 400 employees, including 180 in the St. Joseph area, would be retained.

Suddenlink, which already has a cable operation in Maryville, expects to close the sale in the first quarter of 2011.

The NPG cable systems serve about 83,000 customers in St. Joseph, Mammoth Lakes, Calif., and Arizona cities including Flagstaff, Sedona, Lake Havasu and Kingman.

News-Press & Gazette Co. is owned by the Bradley family. The family founded the cable division in 1965.

Columbia Tribune ownership changes

By Kris Hilgedick
Columbia Daily Tribune

The family that owns the *Columbia Daily Tribune* announced a major reorganization on Dec. 21.

Publisher Hank Waters' two youngest children are buying out four other family members to take full ownership of the company. Starting Jan. 1, Andy Waters will take over as president and general manager, giving up his current title as vice president for interactive media. Andy Waters and his sister, Elizabeth, who lives in Atlanta, will own the company.

Their father — 80-year-old publisher Henry J. “Hank” Waters III — will take the title publisher emeritus and continue writing editorials. His wife, associate publisher Vicki Russell, 60, will become publisher. Russell will be the fourth family member — and the first woman — to serve as publisher since Hank Waters' great-uncle Edwin Watson listed himself

as “editor and proprietor” in 1905.

Andy Waters, 41, began his journalism career as a reporter for The Associated Press but returned to Columbia in 1995 to join the *Tribune*.

As part of the transition, two of Hank Waters' children, Jack Waters and Mary Waters, are retiring.

Jack Waters, 57, launched his career with the *Tribune* in the circulation department in 1969. He's planning on leaving his position as general manager in early January. Vice president Mary Waters, 52, started working for the company in 1986 and leads the company's circulation and human resources departments. She'll be leaving soon, too.

Their duties will be split between Andy Waters, Russell, and other company managers.

With 215 employees, the *Tribune's* newspaper and commercial printing divisions in 2010 had an estimated

economic impact in Mid-Missouri of \$28 million.

Besides printing the *Columbia Daily Tribune* and the *New York Times* each day, Tribune Publishing prints about 90 other publications each month.

Doug Crews, executive director of the Missouri Press Association, said the change is good for the *Tribune* and Columbia. He said consolidating ownership could avoid complications that arise within families.

“There are times when families, several individuals, can't agree what to do in the future,” Crews said. “The temptation is to throw up their hands and say, ‘Let's sell the newspaper,’” he said.

Crews said fewer than eight of the 44 daily newspapers in Missouri are not part of a chain.

“It's good that the next generation of the Waters family is carrying on the tradition,” he said.

\$1,000 fines for sunshine violations

Ozark County's three commissioners have been fined \$1,000 each for not posting agendas describing the business to be taken up at commission meetings. They agreed to send meeting notices, agendas, minutes and other material to the Missouri Attorney General's office for two years.

A lawsuit filed in April against the three was settled with the Attorney General's Office Nov. 19 in Ozark County Circuit Court.

"It's all settled and that's the last of it," said Western District Commissioner Greg Donley. "The only thing I feel guilty about is that I didn't read the Sunshine Law handbook like I should have. We were in violation of the Sunshine Law. We did post agendas, but we didn't have all the things on them we should have."

The original lawsuit, filed by the Ozark County prosecuting attorney, alleged that the commissioners failed to post agendas of public meetings, as

Ozark County commissioners must send meeting notices to attorney general; \$900 of fines will be suspended upon compliance with settlement.

required by the law, and conducted official business during the meetings. That business included the purchase of a building in Gainesville and the subsequent leasing of part of the building to a private business.

The Missouri Sunshine Law requires governmental bodies to give at least 24 hours notice of a meeting and post a tentative agenda prominently in the office of the body holding the meeting or in the building where the meeting will be held.

Court documents show the commissioners held meetings from June 2009

through March 2010 without providing notice.

The county prosecutor later withdrew from the suit and turned it over to the Attorney General's Office.

"We're not admitting guilt," said Eastern District Commissioner T.J. Lewis. "We just wanted to settle to save taxpayers several thousand dollars."

In addition to sending meeting minutes to the Attorney General's Office, the commissioners must provide copies of all notices for meetings, requests for documents and responses to such requests. Upon successful completion of the settlement requirements, \$900 of each fine will be suspended.

Because of the lawsuit, the commissioners changed the way they conduct meetings. The commissioners now hold open meetings between 9 a.m. and noon on Mondays and Thursdays.

(From reports in the *Ozark County Times*, Gainesville; and *The Daily Quill*, West Plains.)

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Scrapbook

• **St. Louis** — *The St. Louis American* received a 2010 Greater St. Louis Top 50 Award at the 15th annual Gala Awards Dinner in November. Presenting awards were the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association and RubinBrown.

Top 50 recognizes businesses that demonstrate significant contributions to the region. *The American* was cited for its St. Louis American Foundation and for the newspaper providing “an essential vehicle for companies to reach the African-American market ... effectively.”

The American's publisher, Donald M. Suggs, recently received the 2010 Spirit of Justice Award from the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis. Project 2010: Closing the Academic Achievement Gap recognized Suggs with its 2010 Education Leadership Award. Missouri Community College Association selected Suggs and *The American* for its 2010 News Media Award.

• **Odessa** — Bud Jones, editor of *The Odessan* and the Democratic candidate, lost his bid for presiding commissioner of Lafayette County on Nov. 2.

The Republican candidate, a lifelong farmer and Higginsville auto dealer, captured about 59 percent of the votes.

• **Cameron** — Cameron Newspapers again this year collected food for the Food Pantry Challenge during the Cameron Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Each child who took a food item to the newspaper's table was entered into a drawing to see who would turn on the lights on the tree.

In Moberly, the *Monitor-Index* offered a discount on subscriptions to everyone who donated to the Buddy Pack

Program in the local schools. The program provides backpacks full of food for school children to take home over weekends.

The *Ste. Genevieve Herald* also discounted subscriptions and renewals to raise money for its “Read the Herald and Help Feed the Needy” annual campaign. Added to this year's effort were two bicycles donated during a sum-



Subscription discount for food

The *Neosho Daily News* offered readers a discount on their renewal or new subscription with the donation of at least three canned or non-perishable food items to the Food Basket Brigade. This was the second year the newspaper helped in the food donation campaign. Donated items were stacked in the newspaper office before collection and distribution. (*Neosho Daily News* photo)

mer Cycling For a Cause rally to raise awareness about poverty.

Contributors to the campaign were entered into drawings for the bikes.

• **St. Louis** — Carolyn Marty, managing editor of the Suburban Journals of Greater St. Louis Metro editions, on Dec. 6 became president of the Greater North County Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber serves Florissant, Hazelwood, Spanish Lake and other areas of North County. It has about 375 members.

• **Hannibal** — The *Courier-Post* and local partners sponsored a cooking show on Nov. 11 featuring Jon Ashton, chef for “Relish Magazine,” a monthly publication distributed in the *Courier-*

Post.

As part of the promotion for the event, the newspaper and a local radio station held a food shopping contest at a grocery in New London. That event generated more than \$400 worth of food for a local charity.

Steve Yager of the *Courier-Post* staff represented the newspaper in the contest.

• **Harrisonville** — The *Democrat-Missourian* in early December shut down its press. The weekly now is printed by *The Kansas City Star* at its state-of-the-art Press Pavilion in downtown Kansas City. McClatchy owns both of the newspapers.

• **Columbia** — Michael Bushnell of the *Kansas City Northeast News* and Don Groves of the *Albany Ledger* won Know It. All. T-shirts from the Missouri Press Foundation.

Their names were placed in a drawing when they completed the Missouri Press post-convention survey.

• **Platte City** — *The Landmark* held its annual public Christmas party on Dec. 10. The weekly invited all to drop in between 4-8 p.m. for food, drink and conversation.

• **Joplin** — After *The Globe* introduced a new design in November, a number of readers complained of difficulty reading the paper. Editor Carol Stark wrote that the newspaper would increase the size of type and address other concerns readers had expressed about the new design.

• **Camdenton** — The Camdenton Chamber of Commerce recently presented Lake Media with the Business of the Year Award in recognition of its efforts on behalf of the community and

its business practices.

Lake Media publisher John Tucker accepted the award.

Lake Media, with 54 full-time employees, publishes the *Lake Sun*, *West-side Star* and a number of other weekly and niche advertising publications in the Lake of the Ozarks region.

The award also recognized Lake Media for its role in promoting water quality at Lake of the Ozarks.

• **Bolivar** — More than \$90,000 worth of goods and services went on the block during Ozarks' Auction Mania VIII Nov. 28 through Dec. 8. Neighbor Newspapers in the southwest Missouri region conduct the promotion.

After the auction closes, winning

bidders pay the newspaper, which issues vouchers used to redeem items at retailers.

• **West Plains** — *The Daily Quill* reported in November that for the first time in about 46 years not a single hunter brought a deer to the newspaper office to have a photo taken.

Changes in hunting regulations and photo technology probably led to the lack of photos, the *Quill* said. Hunters can check in deer by telephone, and cell phones that take pictures make trips to the newspaper office unnecessary.

The Quill did receive about 50 photos of youngsters who got deer during the Oct. 30-31 youth season. Most of those were emailed to the paper.

• **Joplin** — *The Globe* sponsored Mistletoe Marketplace Christmas bazaar and craft fair on Dec. 4. It featured handmade gifts, jewelry and accessories, holiday décor and more.

• **Park Hills** — The *Daily Journal* and other local businesses held a coat, shoes and personal hygiene products drive from about mid-November to mid-December. East Missouri Action Agency distributed the items collected.

• **Neosho** — *The Daily News* collected coats, mittens, gloves, hats and scarves in its second Project Warmth drive. More than 500 items were donated last year. Items collected were distributed Dec. 18 by the Newton



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Betty Spaar celebrates 50 years of ownership

Betty Spaar celebrated her 50th year of ownership of *The Odessan* on Dec. 1. Attending an open house at the newspaper office that day were Spaar's longtime friends and MPA colleagues (from left) Doug Crews, executive director of the Missouri Press Association; Bill James, publisher of the Warrensburg *Daily Star-Journal*; and Kirk Powell, publisher of the *Pleasant Hill Times*. Steve Curd, publisher of the *Independence Examiner*, dropped by *The Odessan* office that day along with many local residents and well-wishers. Jan Powell and Tricia Crews also attended. (Photo by Rene Spaar)

County Food Basket Brigade.

On Dec. 4 the *Daily News* partnered with a local running group and website in raising money with a "Share Your Christmas" 5K run. The more than \$1,200 in gift cards donated helped six families chosen by the Neosho Help Center.

- **St. Louis** — The Suburban Journals held their traditional Old Newsboys Day on Nov. 23 to raise thousands of dollars for local charities.

Volunteers worked street corners throughout the metro area selling special copies of the Journals for whatever amount the buyers chose to give.

- **Springfield** — The *Springfield Business Journal* and the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce joined to recognize people in the health care industry during Salute to Health Care. The Oct. 28 event honored 15 individuals: three Salute to Health Care hon-

orees and 12 Health Care Champions.

- **Bowling Green** — *The Times* sponsored a mystery shopper event for local businesses from November through the end of 2010. If a store clerk asked the mystery shopper if he or she had picked up a *Bowling Green Times* that week, the clerk won \$20 on the spot.

- **Cuba** — Three Rivers Publishing (*Cuba Free Press*, *Steelville Star/Crawford Mirror*, and *St. James Press*) teamed up with the senior class at Steelville High School to raise money for Project Graduation and a senior trip.

Members of the class sold subscriptions to any of the papers through Dec. 22 for \$6 off regular rates. Half of the proceeds from the sales went to the senior class.

- **St. Charles** — Missouri Lawyers Media has redesigned its Business Record publications in the St. Louis metro

region. The new look includes updated nameplates, modern typefaces and re-organized public notice pages.

Much of the redesign is based on the company's award-winning *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*.

- **St. Clair** — Keith E. Domke, editor of the *St. Clair Missourian*, was one of three people elected recently to the board of the St. Clair Chamber of Commerce. Domke has been with the newspaper for about four months. He moved to the area from Wyoming.

Domke's term began Jan. 1.

- **Ironton** — The *Mountain Echo* held its 14th Annual Toy Drive in December to provide gifts for children of low-income families in Iron County. Partners in the campaign were the Farm Bureau, Iron County Action Plan Committee, civic groups, churches and individuals.

In Louisiana, the *Press-Journal* teamed up with Heart to Heart Community Outreach to collect donations for area families in need during the holidays.

- **St. Joseph** — *News-Press* reporter and columnist Alonzo Weston received awards for a column and a feature story from the Kansas City Association of Black Journalists. Weston and other area journalists were recognized for outstanding efforts in covering diverse communities.

- **Versailles** — The *Leader-Statesman* on Dec. 23 published photos of area children and their pets. Cost was \$5 to have a photo published. Parents could submit photos or have a photo taken at the newspaper office.

- **Webster Groves** — The *Webster-Kirkwood Times* and *South County Times* received awards in September from the Independent Free Papers of America at its conference in Nashville.

Editor Don Corrigan received the Joseph A. Sklenar Editorial Award for persuasive editorial writing. Corrigan's Editor's Desk column placed first in the Original Writing-Editorial category. A Corrigan feature story won second place in Original Writing-Feature Sto-

ry, and a Corrigan news story won third in its category.

Times photographer Diana Linsley won first place in original photography for a picture of firefighters practicing rappelling down a building.

• **West Plains** — Subscribers to *The Quill's* website were able to view holiday greetings from area service people stationed overseas. The messages, provided to *The Quill* by the Joint Hometown News Services of San Antonio, could be played through the holidays.

• **St. Louis** — Broadcast journalist Jane Pauley will be the keynote speaker on Jan. 19 at the sixth annual *St. Louis Business Journal* Women's Conference.

Pauley served as the co-host of NBC's "Today" show, anchored "Dateline NBC" and in 2004 became the host of her own daytime program, "The Jane Pauley Show."

Nearly 800 people attended last year's conference. This year's meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch.

• **Kansas City** — Steve Paul, senior writer and arts editor of *The Star*, was among 10 "urban heroes" honored at the Dec. 10 annual luncheon of the Downtown Council.

The 10 were honored for contributions to the arts and cultural scene of downtown.

Rocco Landesman, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, was the keynote speaker.

• **Granby** — The *Newton County News* took pictures of people with Santa Claus after the city's Christmas parade on Dec. 11. Photos, which were taken at no charge, were published in the Dec. 15 edition.

• **Springfield** — The *Springfield News-Leader* was named the Associated Press 2010 David R. Bradley Member of the Year for Missouri, recognizing its contributions to the news cooperative.

The *News-Leader* and the *Topeka Capital-Journal* were honored at the annual Missouri-Kansas AP Publishers & Editors meeting held Dec. 5-6 in Kansas City.

• **Slater** — The *Main Street News* has begun publishing "Soldier Stories," print versions of stories that have been filmed over the past year.

The newspaper staff used membership lists of the American Legion and VFW to contact local veterans to record their stories.

"You can cut a written piece out and place it in a family Bible for safe-keeping. You can frame it and hang it on a wall. It's tangible," said publisher Jean E. Black.

• **Pleasant Hill** — F. Kirk Powell, publisher of the *Pleasant Hill Times*, received the city's "Lifetime Service Award" Dec. 3 at the annual Mayor's Appreciation Dinner.

"He is truly a pillar of the community, a business leader, a community volunteer and a shaper of public opinion in our town," Mayor Terry Wilson said. "Kirk has ... consistently support-

ed our town by extolling its virtues and defending it against all detractors."


• **Savannah** — A copy of the 50th anniversary issue of the *Savannah Reporter* from 1926 was among the items found in a time capsule that was opened Nov. 19 at Savannah High School.

School and Andrew County Museum officials opened the capsule, which was stowed in the cornerstone of the middle school building in 1932.

Copies of other newspapers also were in the capsule. Museum officials hope to have all of the items from the capsule on display by spring.

• **Eldon** — Vernon Publishing newspapers now offer paid subscriptions to online, searchable PDF versions of each issue.

Readers can do word searches of the entire contents of each issue, and they have access to issues back to Oct. 7.



Missouri Press Foundation

These individuals and businesses made recent contributions to Missouri Press Foundation. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible. During the year-end gift season is a most appropriate time to consider a contribution in honor of or in memory of an associate or friend.

All donations are greatly appreciated. Send checks to Missouri Press Foundation, 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201.

Missouri Press Foundation
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St. Louis Post-Dispatch Newspaper In Education Program
St. Louis Sports Commission
Marketing Solutions Group, *Waurika, Okla.*

Republic Monitor Newspaper In Education Program
US Bancorp. Foundation

On the Move

Canton — The 148-year-old *Press-News Journal* has named Paula Christner and Jonathan Mohr co-publishers. Both have lived in the area and have backgrounds in community media.



Paula Christner

Dan Steinbeck, whose family sold the weekly this year, continues as editor.

Christner grew up in Quincy, Ill., which is just south of Canton and across the Mississippi River. She lives there with her husband and two sons.

Christner recently was a marketing coordinator for Miglin Sales and Distribution. She is a graphic artist and previously worked for the *Quincy Herald-Whig*, the Adams County (Ill.) County Clerk's Office and Reed Promotional Media.

Christner will be responsible for the look of the *Press-News Journal*, both online and in print.



Jonathan Mohr

Mohr grew up in central Illinois. He lives in Quincy with his wife and son, and is responsible for news coverage in Lewis County.

Mohr previously worked for Genesis Image Builders, a marketing and public relations firm, and was a staff writer for Eagle Publications in Macomb, Ill.

• **St. Louis** — Cameron Hollway has been named editorial director for st-highschoolsports.com, the web home of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and the Suburban Journals' coverage of the region's high school sports.

Hollway worked at the *Post-Dispatch* for 10 years, most recently as an assistant sports editor. Before that he was sports editor for papers in Odessa and Borger, Texas. Since 2009 he has worked for CBSSports.com managing elements of NFL coverage for six teams.

Hollway oversees creation of content for the website, the Suburban Journal sports sections and some prep sports content for the *Post-Dispatch*. He's also leading the creation of multimedia content and new content-related business opportunities.

• **Hannibal** — Kyle Mayhugh is the new sports editor of the *Courier-Post*. He grew up in Illinois, studied journalism at Eastern Illinois University and spent the past 2-1/2 years in northwest North Dakota.



Kyle Mayhugh

He's worked for Sauk Valley Newspapers in Sterling, Ill., and the *Daily Herald* in Williston, N.D.

Mayhugh and his wife, Alta, have a 16-month-old son.

Mayhugh and his wife, Alta, have a 16-month-old son.

• **Boonville** — Reporter Sananda Sahoo has joined the staff of *The Daily News*. She has a master's degree from the Missouri School of Journalism and experience with *The Columbia Missourian*, McClatchy Newspapers in Washington, D.C., and as a freelance reporter at *The Statesman* in Kolkata, India.

After attending college in India, Sahoo went to work for a newspaper in India, then for a paper in Dubai. She learned of the "Missouri method" being taught at the School of Journalism and returned to school to "get better as a journalist."

While attending J School Sahoo traveled around Missouri for entertainment, to report the news and write feature stories.

• **Warrensburg** — The *Star-Journal* has expanded its production crew. Bob Davis is the new production manager, replacing Keith Sproat, who retired in October. Davis has worked for several newspapers, most recently the *Independence Examiner*.

J. R. Robinson joined the *Star-Journal* as a pressman and Brandon Julian

moved up to the press assistant position.

• **Savannah** — The *Reporter* has hired Jesse Murphy as a reporter to replace Emily Gummelt, who took a position with the *St. Joseph News-Press*.

Murphy grew up in Rock Port and attended Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, where he earned degrees in journalism and Spanish last summer.

He and his wife, Erica, have two young children.

• **Park Hills** — Reporter Chris Cline has left the *Daily Journal* after about 10 years to be the communications director for the Missouri Department of Corrections.

• **Excelsior Springs** — *The Standard* recently brought sports writer Russ Green and page designer/copy editor Liz Johnson on staff.



Russ Green

Green has several years of experience in sports radio, working in Lexington, Montgomery City, Chillicothe and Carrolton. He began his career in print in 1991 with the *Richmond Daily News*. He worked briefly for the *Independence Examiner* and in 2005 he became the sports editor in Richmond.



Liz Johnson

Johnson worked in the supermarket industry in Boston for 22 years. She launched her own graphic design business several years ago and in 2006 joined *The Richmond Daily News*.

Green and Johnson were hired to help managing editor Eric Copeland and reporter Kristin Rulon expand *The Standard's* coverage and redesign its pages. Green and Johnson continue to work for the Richmond paper as well.

• **West Plains** — Linda Greer of Couch has joined *The Daily Quill* as a

writer and photographer. For the past two years Green was a reporter for the *Marshfield Mail*. Before that she was editor of the *Cedar County Republican* in Stockton and a staff writer for *The Joplin Globe*.

- **Marshfield** — Ryan Richardson, a reporter, photographer and videographer, has joined the news staff of the *Marshfield Mail* as a “backpack journalist.”



Ryan Richardson

He is a recent graduate of Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, where he studied journalism and convergent media.

Richardson is a native of St. Joseph. His wife, Jessica, is the manager of a loan company in Springfield.

Mail general manager Grant Overstake said Richardson was hired as a “next-generation journalist who can do it all, digitally speaking.”

Weekly’s press keeps running for customers across country

Digital technology allows better, cheaper service for small printing customers

One might think that PJ Printing simply puts out the *Louisiana Press-Journal* every week, but that’s just a small fraction of the business.

“That is one-half of one percent of what we do,” said Jeff Guay, at the Dec. 6 meeting of the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce.

The firm’s general manager said 35 employees print a variety of publications: newspapers, coupon books, brochures and posters for clients all over the U.S. Those jobs include large high school newspapers all the way to San Diego, Calif.

PJ also prints the newspapers of the University of Missouri, St. Louis; Washington University in St. Louis and

St. Louis University.

Soft cover books up to 200 pages are also produced. Guay showed one for a fishing and hunting company in Spokane, Wash.

“Our press runs 24 hours per day,” Guay said.

New digital technology installed in July allows PJ to do small custom jobs without high customer expenses, Guay said. Most commercial printers need a lot of volume before prices per unit drop, he said, but not with the new technology.

That allows small businesses who need only 500 copies of something to get it done within their budgets.

Some customers find PJ through its website, Guay said. The technology has brought new business and the company is looking to expand to another building in Louisiana. “We’re going to create jobs,” Guay said.

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Governor, U.S. senators to help read '3 Generals'

Start running free serial story this month

When we added an audio component to this year's Reading Across Missouri project, we had no idea how enthusiastic everyone would be in our request to read! We've got an impressive line-up of readers, including Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, who have each recorded a chapter of this year's story, "Three Generals."

I'm really excited about this project for several reasons. First, it's a good story. It's terrific that author Kay Hively has introduced young readers to three Missourians who made such significant contributions to our nation. And this year we'll connect them with leaders who are making an impact on our country and state right now!

Here is the line-up of readers so far: Chapter 1 – Gov. Nixon, Chapter 2 – U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, Chapter 3 – MU Chancellor Dr. Brady Deaton, Chapter 4 – U.S. Olympic Silver Medalist Christian Cantwell, Chapter 5 – U.S. Senator-elect Roy Blunt, Chapter 6 – U.S. Sen. Kit Bond, Chapter 7 – TBA, Chapter 8 – Missouri National Guard Maj. Gen. Stephen Danner. Author Kay Hively will record an introduction for the story.

Before children can meet these readers, they have to connect with their community newspapers! To participate in the 2011 Reading Across Missouri project, newspapers need to begin publishing the serialized story sometime in January.

A promotional ad is available now, and you can download the ad, all eight chapters of the story and a companion

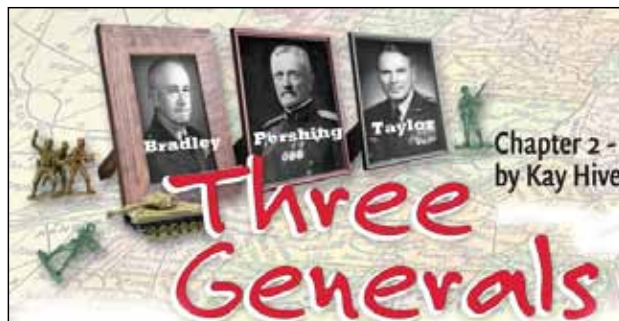
teacher guide at www.mo-nie.com using download code: readmo11. The teacher guide can be posted on your website as a PDF, and each chapter of the story also provides a link for teachers to download the guide at www.mnea.org.



Dawn Kitchell is MPA's NIE director. Contact her at (636) 932-4301; kitchell@yhti.net.

Missouri NEA is our partner in this year's project and will host the chapter recordings on its website.

The name "Reading Across Missouri" was modeled after the National Education Association's Read Across America project, which motivates children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and



reading resources. Seven years ago we set the timeline for our project to conclude near Read Across America Day, March 2, which celebrates the birthday of Dr. Seuss and is widely celebrated in schools across the state.

Before the week of Jan. 10, MNEA will upload Gov. Nixon's reading of Chapter 1, and a new audio chapter will be posted each week. There is a link at the bottom of each story that will direct readers to MNEA's site. The chapters will stay online through the

duration of the project.

The goal of this project is to engage children inside their community newspapers – learning a little about Missouri history while improving their reading skills and connecting to their communities.

The Reading Across Missouri 2011 story, "Three Generals," introduces young readers to three men — John J. Pershing, Maxwell D. Taylor and Omar N. Bradley — who had significant roles in two world wars and who all hailed from Missouri. Inspired by these three famous American generals, the two main characters learn that no matter where they live, boys and girls can achieve great success through hard work and a belief in their own dreams.

The story is eight chapters and is provided at no cost to Missouri newspapers. The chapters are offered in a camera-ready format, 4 col. by 10.5 inches, and include activities at the end of the chapters to extend the learning.

This year's story has a new illustrator, Nathan McAlister. Nathan is a senior art major at Missouri Southern State University. He also is a nationally recognized fiddler and a resident of Neosho.

Hively, McAlister, and the Missouri Press Foundation all waive their fees for this project to encourage all Missouri newspapers to participate. We promote the project as a statewide, unified effort to have children reading inside their newspapers as we begin a new year.

Whether you've had a relationship with your schools for years, or you've always known you should initiate something, this project is for you. Teachers and readers — young and old from across the state anticipate and follow these stories and this year the interest will be greater than ever!

We will publish a list of participating newspapers to celebrate their commitment to promoting reading – and the importance of reading newspapers – to our children. Be sure this January you are on that list by downloading and running "Three Generals!"

Obituaries

Avis Tucker, 1982 MPA president, Warrensburg publisher, dies at 95

Avis Tucker, 95, Kansas City, former Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal publisher, philanthropist and pioneer for women in the newspaper business, died Dec. 17, 2010.

Mrs. Tucker and her husband, William Tucker, bought *The Daily Star-Journal* in 1947. Mrs. Tucker sold it in 2007 to the News-Press & Gazette Co., St. Joseph.

Avis Tucker took over as the newspaper's sole publisher after her husband died of a heart attack in 1966.

She received the Missouri School of Journalism's Honor Medal in 1976. In 1982 Mrs. Tucker served as the Missouri Press Association's first female president and received the National Newspaper Association's McKinney Award, given to a woman who "exhibited distinguished service to the community press."

In 1992, she was the first woman



Avis Tucker

inducted into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame, and in May she became director emeritus of the Missouri Press Foundation, which she helped establish and fund.

Born in 1915 to farmers Ralph and Nellie Green of Concordia, Kan., her family moved to Pleasant Hill when she turned 18 months old. She graduated from Southwest High School in Kansas City, and from the University of Missouri in 1937. She married William Tucker on June 8, 1941, in Memphis, Tenn.

Mrs. Tucker was the first woman president of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, in 1972, and she served on the first Missouri Gaming Commission in 1993. She was a past president and a permanent trustee of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

Two nephews, Bob and Richard Green, Kansas City, survive Mrs. Tucker. Her caregiver, Bessie Williams, said the family plans a private service. (From a Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal story.)

Clinton

Georgia Hughett

Georgia Hughett, business office manager for the *Clinton Daily Democrat*, died Nov. 29, 2010, at the home of her son in Aurora, Colo.

Mrs. Hughett had left the newspaper on Sept. 30 to move to Colorado after being diagnosed with cancer last summer.

Springfield

Maudie Lawson

Maudie A. Lawson, 55, an obituary writer for the *Springfield News-Leader*, died in early December, 2010, after battling colon cancer for five years. She wrote her own obituary.

Survivors are her husband, Greg; a

daughter, a son, grandson, brothers and sisters.

Maryville

Leola Swaney

Leola Elnora Swaney, 96, who worked as a columnist and writer for the *Maryville Daily Forum* for many years, died Nov. 8, 2010.

Mrs. Swaney began working for the *Forum* in 1942 and retired in 1980. She continued to write her column, All in a Woman's Day, through 2002.

She was active with many area organizations, including the Nodaway County Historical Society, for which she collaborated in producing volumes about area history.

Mrs. Swaney is survived by her husband, Lester.

Dexter

Melissa Copeland

Melissa Anne Copeland, 31, circulation assistant for *The Daily Statesman* in Dexter, died Nov. 13, 2010, at her home.

She is survived by a sister and a niece.

Puxico Press suffers water damage in devastating blaze

Firefighters broke into *The Puxico Press* office early on Oct. 27 to spray it with water to save it from a fire that destroyed three other buildings in downtown Puxico.

Firefighters from Puxico, Dexter, Advance and Bloomfield brought the fire under control before it spread to the building housing the newspaper. Newspaper employees salvage computers and historic volumes of the newspaper dating back 70 years.

The fire appeared to have started in a laundry sometime before 2 a.m. and spread to two buildings that served for many years at the Community Center. All three were destroyed.

Rust Communications based in Cape Girardeau owns *The Puxico Press*. Editorial operations were moved temporarily to the *Daily American Republic* in Poplar Bluff, another Rust newspaper.

David Bradley elected vice chair of UM curators

Warren K. Erdman of Kansas City was elected to a one-year term as chair of the University of Missouri Board of Curators during the board's meeting Dec. 9-10 in St. Louis. David R. Bradley of St. Joseph was elected vice chair. Their terms began Jan. 1.

Bradley is president of the News-Press & Gazette Company. He served as president of the Missouri Press Association in 2007 and of Northwest Missouri Press Associations and the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce.

He is a member of the board of directors of UMB Financial Corporation and the Inland Press Association.

Closing public meeting requires specific reason

Catch-all agenda entry inadequate

One of the biggest frustrations we have in dealing with the sunshine law as it presently exists is public bodies that list closed meetings on their agendas and then cite as their reason for closing a multitude of the exceptions listed in Section 610.021.

There may be a rare occasion when discussions are truly planned for several matters involving all the exceptions listed. But it is generally done to cover for a public body that hasn't bothered to think ahead about what it might bring before the body for discussion. It fears that it will need a closed meeting at the regular meeting and not have it properly listed on the agenda.

Just recently I fielded two calls where this was the issue. One of those calls was actually from a public body whose clerk felt that this practice somehow seemed wrong. I explained to her that I believe indeed it is wrong based upon the fact that the law is clear that any notice of a closed meeting must cite "the specific reason announced to justify the closed meeting..." according to Section 610.022.3.

Citing an assortment of reasons for closing a meeting is clearly not citing "the specific reason" as the statute requires. Plus, Section 610.020.4 contains a provision for holding any meeting, open or closed, on less than 24-hours notice when a true emergency exists and where "the nature of the good cause justifying that departure from the normal requirements" is stated in the minutes.

In short, if it is truly an emergency, the body doesn't have to worry that it didn't give proper notice of a closed meeting. It can hold it by voting to go into closed

meeting and properly stating the emergency that justifies the need to do so in its minutes. Otherwise, it should give the required 24-hour notice and properly schedule a closed meeting.

(Not long ago I mentioned that in the collection of public body agendas

that you sent me, I have a huge number of examples of just this infraction. Indeed, it is more widespread than I imagined.)

The good news is that we now have at least one judge who recognizes this as a violation of the law. The bad news is that it is not an appellate court decision, which could be cited as legal precedent in the future. Still, it exists and the time may come it will be helpful to us, so I want to talk about it so that we remember it when that time comes.



Jean Maneke, MPA's Legal Hotline attorney, can be reached at (816) 753-9000, jmaneke@manekelaw.com.

The decision was issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Northern Division, based in Hannibal. The case involved a police officer terminated by the City of Salisbury, which asserted several claims in regard to his termination.

Most of the decision relates to matters that are not relevant to the sunshine law. Those issues were heard by a jury, but the sunshine law claim was submitted to the court for a determination.

The court found that the city had listed on its agenda a proposed closed meeting, citing exceptions 1 (legal matters), 2 (real estate) or 3 (personnel matters) of Section 610.021. It is important that the minutes of the open meeting during which the closed meeting was held did not mention any specific reason for holding the closed meeting.

During that closed meeting, however, it is clear that the plaintiff's performance

was discussed. Then, in the open session continuation that followed, the board moved to eliminate the position on the police force that the plaintiff held. That motion passed.

The court concluded that a violation occurred when the board failed to cite a reason for going into the closed meeting. "While notice of such a possibility on multiple grounds was provided in advance of the public meeting, the precise reason for this closed session was not publicly announced at the open meeting, by referencing the specified exception provided under the statute, nor was the basis reflected in the minutes," the judge stated in his written opinion.

The court then launched into a consideration of whether the violation was knowing and/or purposeful. I won't discuss that in detail. Suffice it to say the court did not find a knowing or purposeful violation. The argument in the opinion mimics the arguments we always hear – the lack of "credible evidence that any Defendant knew that his actions might violate the Law."

Still, it's one step closer to a tighter law. Perhaps it will be something the legislature will consider seriously if a sunshine law bill is proposed in this session. And it's a case we'll want to keep handy for the next time this issue comes before a court in Missouri!

The court found that the city had listed on its agenda a proposed closed meeting, citing exceptions 1 (legal matters), 2 (real estate) or 3 (personnel matters) of Section 610.021.

Missouri Newspaper Organizations

NORTHWEST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Matt Daugherty, Smithville/Kearney; Vice President, Phil Cobb, Maryville; Secretary, Kathy Conger, Bethany; Treasurer, W.C. Farmer, Rock Port. Directors: Past President Jim Fall, Maryville; Dennis Ellsworth, St. Joseph; Leslie Speckman, Savannah; Jim McPherson, Weston; Chuck Haney, Chillicothe; Adam Johnson, Mound City; Steve Tinnen, Plattsburg; Jamey Honeycutt, Cameron; Kay Wilson, Maryville; Steve Booher, St. Joseph.

SHOW-ME PRESS ASSOCIATION: President, Linda Geist, Monroe City; First Vice President, David Eales, Paris; Secretary-Treasurer, Sandy Nelson, News-Press & Gazette Co. Directors: Dennis Warden, Owensville; Stacy Rice, Drexel; Past President/Director, Judy Spaar, Odessa.

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CALENDAR

January

20-21 — Northwest Missouri Press Association, Holiday Inn Downtown, St. Joseph

February

1-15 — Missouri Press judges Virginia Press Association Newspaper Contest (online judging)

10 — Missouri Press Association Day at the Capitol, Jefferson City

March

17-18 — Ozark Press Association, Chateau on the Lake, Branson

April

14-15 — Missouri Advertising Managers' Association, Sheraton Sports Complex Hotel, Kansas City

June

3 — Southeast Missouri Press Association, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau

July

20-23 — 50th Annual National Newspaper Association Government Affairs Conference, Washington, D.C.

September

8-10 — 145th Annual MPA Convention, Hilton Convention Center at Branson Landing, Branson

22-25 — National Newspaper Association Annual Convention and Trade Show, Albuquerque, N.M.

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