

June 2011

# Missouri Press NEWS



Take a look at the tentative agenda for the MPA Convention in Branson. Plan now to be there in September. **5**

*Joplin Globe reporter climbs out of tornado rubble, hitches ride to work.*

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Missouri Press Foundation sets up fund to assist newspaper staffers in Joplin whose homes were destroyed or damaged by killer tornado on May 22.

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*Joplin Globe* editor Carol Stark helped select winner of Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

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### *Pressmen from Colombia visit Washington*

Three pressroom managers of *El Tiempo* newspaper in Bogota, Colombia, visited the pressroom of the *Washington Missourian* in April to learn about the Goss Urbanite press operation. Mike Phinney, center, *The Missourian's* pressroom director of operations, explained the press, maintenance and its functions. Standing in the back right is Rob Berry, St. Louis, of Pressline Services, the company that installed the press. (*Washington Missourian* photo)

### *K.C. Star publisher transferred to Sacramento*



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# MPA reaches out to Joplin colleagues

## Past Presidents Dinner a special event

Missouri Press offered any help it could provide to *The Joplin Globe* and its employees who are struggling with the devastation of the May 22 tornado. A fund has been set up for contributions through the Missouri Press Foundation (see page 11). GateHouse Media's Joplin operation also was affected.

All members are reminded that if their operations are damaged or personnel affected by a tragedy such as this to call on the association as a resource and information clearinghouse.

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Phyllis and I had the privilege of attending the Missouri Press Past Presidents Dinner April 28. It was truly a wonderful event hosted by Steve and Linda Oldfield of Adrian. A big "thank you" to them and MPA.

I'm not yet a past president, but the dinner was excellent, the camaraderie enjoyable and a great evening. We appreciate being part of it.

It's an honor to follow in the footsteps of R.B. Bob Smith III, Bill Miller Sr., Bob Wilson, Wally Vernon, Jim Sterling, Ken Cope and a host of others who have lead this organization and helped me throughout my career in Mexico. Listening to the stories these folks tell is an education in itself.

Special thanks goes to Mr. Vicki Russell (Hank Waters) for filling in for Vicki at the dinner. Hank gave me my first opportunity in the newspaper business. He is one of the best newspaper people in the state, and I owe him a lot.

(Note to self: Buy Hank a soda at the next meeting.)

Phyllis and I feel like we have a real Missouri Press family, and we value the friendships we have made through the years on the board. They will last a lifetime. Approaching the halfway point of the year, we thank you again for this honor.

Plans are being finalized for a great convention Sept. 8-10 in Branson (pages 4 and 5). Don't miss it!

We have two meetings coming very soon that will help you run your papers more efficiently and drive revenue.

Southeast Missouri Press Association will meet June 3 at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau. This one-day program has a lineup of excellent speakers on newspaper design, advertising design, Google business tools and copyright law.

Show-Me Press will meet in Hannibal June 9-11 right after the MPA/MPS board meeting.

Linda Geist, publisher of the *Lake Gazette* in Monroe City, and her group have put together a great meeting with sessions on working smarter, advertising and public information you can find nearby. Other events include a wine and cheese reception Friday evening at the

Mark Twain Visitors Center followed by a barbecue dinner and a '50s-'60s band.

Missouri Press is accepting nominations for officers and directors for 2012. Now is your opportunity to help lead this organization into the future. Make the time to serve on the board. You will be greatly rewarded for your time spent.

Don't hesitate to fill out a candidate application for yourself. Nominations will be accepted until June 15. The form is in the Missouri Press Bulletin, which is on [mopress.com](http://mopress.com), or contact the MPA office.



*If your operation is damaged or personnel affected by natural disaster, MPA may be able to help.*



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Jim Robertson, *Columbia Daily Tribune*  
Linda Geist, *Monroe City Lake Gazette*  
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## Do Overs!

**Mulligans: \$10 per player (1 mulligan per side).**

**All proceeds above costs will go to Missouri Press**

**Foundation.**

**Mulligans will be sold at the course**



**2011 Missouri Press Foundation**

# Porter Fisher Golf Classic

**Thursday, June 9;  
1:30 p.m. Shotgun;  
4-Person Scramble.**

**Mosswood Meadows Golf Course, Monroe City**

# \$35

**Greens Fee, Cart,  
Prizes for Longest Putt,  
Longest Drive, Top Teams**

Be at the golf course by NOON for free lunch provided by the Monroe City Chamber of Commerce. If you do not have a foursome, you will be assigned to one. If you wish to buy mulligans and/or make a contribution to the prize fund, you may add that to your registration check. Send your registration and check to: Missouri Press Foundation, 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201; or pay by phone with a credit card, (573) 449-4167.

Golf = \$35 per golfer \_\_\_\_\_

Mulligans \$10 per player \_\_\_\_\_

Prize Fund \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Co. / Newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Consider a Contribution to the Prize Fund

Would you personally or your company consider a contribution to the tournament prize/expense fund? If so, you may add it to your registration check or send a separate check to Missouri Press Foundation. Your gift will be acknowledged at the golf course and in MPA publications. Thank you.

Directions: Mosswood Meadows Golf Course is on Highway 36 at the west edge of Monroe City.

# K.C. Star publisher to Sacramento

## McClatchy Co. promotes Mark Ziemann to VP of operations

By MARK DAVIS / *The Kansas City Star*

**M**ark Ziemann, who rose from reporter to publisher during 25 years at *The Kansas City Star*, has been promoted from his hometown paper to a senior position at its parent firm, the McClatchy Co.

The company named Ziemann vice president of operations to succeed Frank Whittaker, who is retiring. The promotion, announced May 18, was effective at the end of May.

Ziemann, 50, will move to Sacramento, Calif., to oversee 13 of the chain's daily newspapers, including *The Star*, and affiliated operations across seven states.

Bob Weil, McClatchy's other vice president for operations, will oversee 14 daily newspapers and affiliated operations in seven other states. Pat Talamantes, vice president of finance and chief financial officer of McClatchy, will assume oversight of the company's Florida operations.

"Mark has done a terrific job as publisher in Kansas City, navigating a tough economy and positioning the paper for a successful future that includes digital,

print and niche publications," said Gary Pruitt, CEO of McClatchy.

"I love *The Star* and Kansas City and would have been happy serving both forever," said Ziemann, a native Kansan who grew up in Kansas City. "But the future of newspapers in our democracy is now being written and reimagined in communities across our country. ... To help lead that effort, yet still oversee my hometown paper, is the perfect opportunity for me."

Ziemann's journalism career began at *The Star* as an editorial intern in 1982 while he pursued a journalism degree at the University of Kansas. After graduating in 1984, he joined the Houston bureau of *The Wall Street Journal*.

*The Star* hired Ziemann two years later as an investigative reporter. He became managing editor in 1992, editor and vice president in 1997 and president and publisher in 2008.

Ziemann directed *The Star's* examination of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that won the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting.

**D**uring his tenure as editor and publisher, *The Star* won numerous national awards, including the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for outstanding coverage of injustice against the underprivileged and the Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc. award for

watchdog journalism.

The FYI, Sports Daily and Business sections have won top honors in national competition, and *The Star* won 15 of the last 16 Gold Cups awarded by the Missouri Press Association.

Ziemann holds an Executive MBA from Rockhurst University in Kansas City.

As publisher, Ziemann has faced the lingering effect of the recession. That has meant laying off employees and cutting out parts of the newspaper, moves he described as part of a strategic defensive game rather than the offensive game he would have preferred.

"It's the time you inherit, and you don't get to pick that," Ziemann said.

*The Star* is McClatchy's largest newspaper, with average daily circulation of 214,000 and Sunday circulation of 308,000. It launched its weekly publication, *Ink*, in the midst of the decline.

Digital revenue at *The Star* grew 25 percent during Ziemann's first year as publisher, and the newspaper has continued as one of McClatchy's leaders in online growth and digital innovation.

McClatchy is the nation's third-largest newspaper company, with 30 daily newspapers, 43 nondailies and direct marketing and direct mail operations.

A search for a new publisher for *The Star* is under way.



Mark Ziemann

## MPA sets tentative Convention agenda

**E**lvis will be in the building when Missouri Press Association gathers in September for its 145th Annual Convention. The meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 8, through noon on Saturday, Sept. 10, in the Hilton Branson Convention Hotel in historic downtown Branson.

Reserve those dates on your schedule and join your Missouri newspaper associates for some fun, entertainment and education. A tentative agenda for the entire convention is on the facing page.

A registration form will be sent soon.

MPA President Joe May, publisher of *The Mexico Ledger*, and his wife, Phyllis, will be the hosts for the convention.

As is customary, Thursday's activities will focus on fun. A golf outing will be held at Payne Stewart Golf Club. In the evening, Dave "Elvis" Ehlert will entertain during the reception party.

Friday and Saturday's schedule includes a solid lineup of sessions to help you and your staffers enhance your skills and elevate your newspaper. Editors,

reporters, photographers, ad reps and circulation managers will learn from experts and their peers.

Friday evening's Newspaper Hall of Fame banquet will be followed by a Mizzou football watch party (the Tigers will play at Arizona State that evening).

The Newspaper Contest Awards Luncheon, the final event at the convention, will be held Saturday.

Check out the tentative agenda, and resolve now to join your newspaper associates in September in Branson.

**145<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri Press Association Convention**  
**Tentative Schedule**  
**Hilton Branson Convention Hotel**

**Thursday, September 8**

- 7:30-11:30 a.m. Registration open  
8:00-11:00 a.m. **MPA and MPS Boards meet**  
Noon **Golf** at Payne Stewart Golf Club in Branson, a tribute course honoring the life and legacy of golf legend Payne Stewart (\$89 for greens fee, cart and range balls)  
6:00-8:00 p.m. Registration open  
8:00 p.m. **Viva Las Vegas!** Reception and Live Entertainment with Dave “Elvis” Ehlert

**Friday, September 9**

- 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Registration open  
8:00-9:30 a.m. **Breakfast Program “Technology Discussion” Panel**, discussing cutting edge issues involving social media, paid content, Deals of the Day, to maximize profits and gain more clients and subscribers  
9:45-10:45 a.m. **Breakout Session 1: “The Ins and Outs of Non-Compete Agreements”**  
Attorney Jay Dade  
**Breakout Session 2: “Avoiding Fraudulent Advertising Scams”**  
Better Business Bureau of St. Louis  
**Breakout Session 3: “101 Easy Ways to Boost Your Bottom Line”** Ken Blum  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Spouses Event:** Tour Stone Hill Winery, then enjoy lunch at The Gardens Restaurant  
10:45-11:00 a.m. Refreshment break  
11:00 a.m. – Noon **Breakout Session 4: “Sales by Numbers”** Tim Smith  
**Breakout Session 5: “Intellectual Property Issues”** Attorneys Jean Maneke and Jay Dade  
Noon – 12:30 p.m. **MPA Business Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors**  
12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Luncheon. **Presentation by Sammy Papert**  
2:00 – 3:45 p.m. **Breakout Session 6: “Sales Time and Territory Management”** Tim Smith  
**Breakout Session 7: “The Elephant in the Room: Is Print a Dead Duck?”**  
Ken Blum  
4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Registration open  
6:00 p.m. **MPA Newspaper Hall of Fame Reception**  
6:30 p.m. **Hall of Fame Banquet, 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Induction Ceremony**  
9:30 p.m. **Mizzou Football Watch Party**, University of Missouri Tigers vs. Arizona State

**Saturday, September 10**

- 8:00 a.m. – Noon Registration open  
8:30 – 10:15 a.m. **Missouri Associated Dailies Breakfast.** Remarks by Sammy Papert  
**Weekly Newspapers Breakfast.** “Dr. Blum’s Group Therapy for Community Newspapers” Ken Blum  
10:30 – 11:45 a.m. **Breakout Session 8: “Designing Effective Print Ads/Campaigns that Drive Results”** and **“Best Advertising Ideas”** Panel.  
**Breakout Session 9: “Get Close, Shoot Fast and Don’t be Afraid to Bite the Dust”** Ken Blum (Reporter/photographer multi-taskers, bring your cameras to this session!)  
Noon **Missouri Press Better Newspaper Contest Awards Luncheon**  
Presentation by the Reynolds Journalism Institute on future Missouri Press Foundation workshops.  
Outstanding Young Journalists of the Year Awards, College Media Association Awards, Scholarship Presentations, BNC Awards Presentation

## Register for June 9-11 meeting in Hannibal

Show-Me Press Association will offer a variety of sessions at its annual meeting Thursday-Saturday, June 9-11, in Hannibal. Sessions will be held in the Quality Inn and Suites Hotel.

Show-Me President Linda Geist, publisher of the *Lake Gazette* in Monroe City, will be the host.

Thursday's activities include an MPA/MPS Board meeting in the morning and the annual MPA Porter Fisher Golf Classic in the afternoon. Golf will be at Mosswood Meadows Golf Course in Monroe City.

Quality Inn and Suites is on U.S. 36 at the western edge of Hannibal. Call the hotel at (573) 221-4001 to reserve a room; \$91.63, including breakfast.

If you have not yet registered, call Show-Me Press Secretary/Treasurer Sandy Nelson at (913) 952-2049 or (913) 385-6046.



### AARP Missouri. Your one-stop source of information for and about people age 50+.

AARP Missouri has more than 805,000 members statewide. AARP has almost 40 million nationwide. People age 50 and older and their families look to us for advocacy, service and information. If you need to know more about this group, we're here to help.

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Kansas City, MO 64112  
Call toll-free, 1-866-389-5627.

For more information, contact AARP Missouri's Associate State Director for Public Affairs, Anita K. Parran, at 816-360-2202 or [aparran@aarp.org](mailto:aparran@aarp.org).

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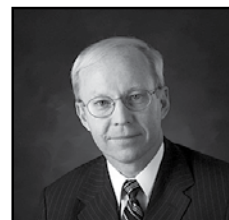
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**EXPERIENCE | KNOWLEDGE | INTEGRITY**

# Reporter crawls out, goes to work

After the tornado, 'it began to dawn on me that some might be injured, even dead'

By JEFF LEHR / *The Joplin Globe*

**J**OPLIN (May 23) — My cat ran under the bed just as that terrible sky came huffing down from the west. I dropped to my knees to try to coax him out. To take him down to what protection a ground-floor foyer closet might offer.

But he just wouldn't come. The awful, pulsing, hectoring noise outdoors wouldn't let him before the windows began imploding, and flying glass forced me to the stairs without him. I literally slid down them as something wooden shot past me, and a large chunk of insulation from who knows where slapped my face.

I opened the closet door and crammed myself inside with the camping gear, lawn chairs and sports equipment, and then listened to pretty much all the other accrued things of my domain being whisked away to who knows where in about 40 seconds or less.

Stepping back out after the worst of the racket had passed, I felt a soaking sheet of rain and realized the roof of my apartment house was gone.

**T**he stairwell to my upstairs apartment, which I had slid down moments earlier, was so cluttered with debris that I could make it only halfway back up to call for my cat. There was no answer. I called and called. There was no answer.

I made my way back down to the foyer and opened the door to look out. There was hail now, and a dark, cold rain, and utter devastation all around.

While it shouldn't have surprised me, it did, that I was not alone, that all my neighbors had suffered the same, that their roofs and walls and things were all gone, too. And it began to dawn on me that some might be injured, even dead, and that I might actually be among the fortunate, and that, as such, I needed to do something

for those who had not been so lucky. Yet, there was this awful, accompanying helplessness and uncertainty of how to start in the totality of the ruin before me. I decided to start close in, to see if the tenant below me was OK.

His carport was collapsed around his doorway, but he was crawling out of the rubble as I approached. He told me he was fine.

It was some measure of our mutual shock that that is all we could say to each other, each turning away and wandering off to take in what else might be left to us. Seeing a neighbor here, another there, coming out of what was left of their homes. One of them standing and looking at her truck, and burying her head in her hands and heading back inside her now shelterless home.

Wandering then out into the street, having to wend my way through incredible amounts of debris, downed power lines and trees.

The smell of gas from ruptured pipelines of homes permeating the neighborhood. And the people in the street, dazed, not seeming to know what to do. A woman I did not know asking me if I had seen her dog, if I could help her

find her dog.

She lived on Pennsylvania Avenue, she said. Was this Pennsylvania? she asked. No, this is Kentucky, I told her. Pennsylvania is one block that way, I said. People unable to recognize which street in their own neighborhood they were on.

*She lived on Pennsylvania Avenue, she said. Was this Pennsylvania? she asked. No, this is Kentucky, I told her. Pennsylvania is one block that way, I said. People unable to recognize which street in their own neighborhood they were on.*

You join other survivors calling into the rubble where homes once stood. Is there anyone in there? Does anyone need help? There are no answers, and you

find no one to help. And how could you help if you did? The view in every direction for blocks and blocks is nothing but devastation, and there's no visible emergency help yet anywhere, although you can hear sirens galore in the distance.

There is nothing familiar left now, and you become disoriented in the unrecognizability of your own neighborhood, your own town. The streets are impassable to vehicles.

Two firefighters from an outlying town come walking down the block, and you ask how you can help and where we are to take people if we find any injured.

They say they don't know and they suggest toward Main Street, where emergency responders are trying to set up a command post.

I have wandered eight or nine blocks and finally reach an edge of the tornado zone, where there are vehicles moving and houses with roofs still intact, even a few trees still upright in their yards. An older couple in a car pull up to their home. They are among the lucky. They ask if I'm OK.

I tell them I'm one of the many who have lost their homes. I ask if they can take me to the newspaper. I have an awful job to do.

## GateHouse's Big Nickel destroyed

**T**he May 22 tornado destroyed GateHouse Media's *Big Nickel* shopper operation in Joplin.

All employees in and around the area escaped injury, and none of their homes were destroyed, but several lost family members, said Gloria Fletcher, vice president/division manager of GateHouse.

She responded by email the day after the disaster to an inquiry from Missouri Press Association.

"We will begin operations out of the *Neosho Daily News*," another GateHouse property, about 18 miles south of Joplin, Fletcher said.



### **MPA Past Presidents gather for annual dinner**

This group gathered at the Grand Cru restaurant in Columbia on April 28 for Missouri Press Association's annual Past Presidents and Spouses dinner. With the newspaper they publish or published and the year they were president, they are, seated from the left, host Steve Oldfield, *Adrian Journal* (2006), Betty Spaar, *The Odessan* (1988), Ken Cope, *Neosho Daily News* (1989), Bob Wilson, *Milan Standard* (1999), Jack Whitaker, *Hannibal Courier-Post* (2008), Don Warden, *Gasconade County Republican*, Owensville (1993), Bill Miller, *Washington Mis-*

*sourian* (2000), Wallace Vernon, *Eldon Advertiser* (1973). In the back are John Spaar, *The Odessan* (2005), Ed Steele, retired Missouri Press advertising director; Gary Sosniecki, *The Vandalia Leader* (2004), Bill Williams, *Thayer News* (1974), Harold Ellinghouse, *Wayne County Journal-Banner*, Piedmont (1996), Kevin Jones, *The St. Louis American* (2010), Dane Vernon, *Versailles Leader-Statesman* (2002), Kirk Powell, *Pleasant Hill Times* (1994), Jim Sterling, *Bolivar Herald-Free Press* (1985), and Joe May, *The Mexico Ledger* (2011).

## ***Press day — the country editor's curse***

(*Marion County Record*, Marion, Kan. Editor's Note: This was from the newspaper more than 50 years ago. Our press days have changed since the computer age has made our lives easier, but the contents of our papers haven't. We still rely on subscribers, advertisers, and our communities to fill these papers with social news, advertisements, and features. Thank you for your continued support and interest. We couldn't do it without you.)

**E**very once in a while some cheerful individual remarks to us, "Well now that the paper is out I suppose you can take it easy for three or four days."

Yes, how delightful it is that a country editor has practically nothing to do between press days. Business runs along automatically. When paper bills come due money drops off the trees with which to pay them.

Subscribers vie with each other to see who can pay the farthest in advance.

Advertisers beg for additional space.

And the way the news hunts up the editor is also

pleasant to contemplate.

There is something really strange about the way news items act. When the paper is out, the editor simply goes to his (or her) desk and leans back in his easy chair and looks wise and waits for next week's press day.

The day before press day, the people line up in front of the office door and then they file past his desk and tell him all the news of the week. He writes it up in 15 or 20 minutes, takes it back and hangs it on the hook. The compositor takes the copy, shakes it over the type cases, says a few mystic words, the type flies in place, and after a few passes by the foreman, the forms are ready for the press again.

And the editor goes down and deposits some more money in the bank.

It is the greatest snap in the catalogue. Now if the editor could only do away with press day, his joy would be complete.

# Circulation manager shot in his backyard

On May 9, Paul Reiter, 58, circulation manager for 22 years of *The St. Louis American*, was shot and killed in the backyard of his home in Dutchtown.

That morning at about 10 a.m., the next-door neighbor reported an attempted burglary to the police. Investigators believe there is a strong possibility that Reiter may have interrupted the suspects as they attempted to burglarize the home.

Police found him lying face down in his yard at about 7:30 p.m. That morning, one neighbor heard gunshots and saw two people running from the scene, both in their teens or early 20s, said St. Louis Metropolitan Police Chief Dan Isom.

Police have arrested Rico R. Paul, 18, and prosecutors charged him with murder, armed criminal action and attempted burglary.

According to court records, Rico Paul had been released on his own recognition in April after being convicted of stealing. At that time he was free on a suspended imposition of sentence for a

2010 conviction for robbery and assault. He had missed a court hearing on May 3, and there was a warrant for his arrest on the day he allegedly murdered Paul Reiter.



Paul Reiter

A judge ordered the accused to be held without bond. Police also are looking for a second suspect.

“We can never repay what he did for us,” Donald M. Suggs, publisher of *The American*, said of Reiter.

“We mourn his senseless murder because he was a very special person and an absolutely essential part of us and what we aspire to do. I spoke with Paul as a peer, as someone whose view of situations I highly value. He believed as we do that the ultimate measure of a society is its sense of social justice.”

Reiter had one son, Christopher Paul Reiter, a 20-year-old business student at Saint Louis University. He also leaves his mother and several brothers and sisters. (From a *St. Louis American* story by Rebecca S. Rivas.)

## Belton, Blue Springs newspapers cease publication in May

Newspapers in Belton and Blue Springs ceased publication in May. The *Belton Star Herald*, which began more than a century ago, printed its last edition May 12.

The *Blue Springs Journal*, a little more than three years old and produced by the same staff as the *Lee's Summit Journal*, printed its last edition May 11.

In notes to readers online, John Beau-doin, publisher of the Belton and Blue Springs papers, attributed the closings to the economy. News on the communities will continue to be covered in print and online by *The Kansas City Star*, the *Lee's Summit Journal* and the *Cass County Democrat Missourian*, Harrisonville.

All of the newspapers are owned by the McClatchy Co.

The closings are part of the reductions that *The Star* announced in May from its downtown and suburban operations.

## NPG shuts down *The Wednesday Sun*

*The Wednesday Sun*, one of several newspapers published in the Kansas City region by NPG Newspapers Inc., delivered its last publication May 25 before suspending operations to reassess the market.

Lee Sawyer, chief operating officer at NPG, said the weekly publication — delivered free to parts of southwest Kansas City — is “taking a step back to see what is a better fit for that marketplace.”

*The Wednesday Sun* editor was let go and other staff members were being reassigned, Sawyer said.

## 118th annual conference for SEMO Press on June 3

Southeast Missouri Press Association scheduled sessions on newspaper design, advertising design, Google business tools and copyright law for its meeting in Cape Girardeau.

The association held its 118th Annual Conference on June 3 at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

## Golden Egg Contest shows power of mobile advertising

The *Perry County Republic-Monitor* held a Golden Egg Contest on April 19 for readers who subscribe to The R-M mobile messaging service.

A text message was sent at 2 p.m. asking subscribers to stop by the newspaper office to draw a plastic egg from a box. Five of the eggs held \$100 bills.

“The response was overwhelming,” said publisher Kate Martin. “Within one minute, we had our first two contestants. Within five minutes, over 20 people had walked in the front door and we had our first \$100 winner.”

“All 112 eggs were drawn within one hour. By the time we closed at 4 p.m., over 220 people had come in the front door.”

Martin said that while The R-M mobile messaging contests are fun for subscribers, there's a reason the newspaper is willing to give away \$500.

“We just showed our advertisers that using our text message service to promote a good deal can draw over 200 people into your business within two hours,” she said.

## On the Move

• **Warrenton** — The *Warren County Record* has hired Joe Varrone as a general assignment reporter. He previously wrote for *The Elsberry Democrat*.

Varrone is a 2005 graduate of DeSmet Jesuit High School and a 2009 graduate of Lindenwood University, where he received a degree in journalism. He's from St. Louis and now lives in St. Charles.

• **Odessa** — Jenna Fear, who will be a senior at Oak Grove High School this fall, is the new intern for *Focus on Oak*

*Grove*. She plans to attend the University of Missouri, Columbia, when she graduates next spring.

• **Eldon** — Debbie Fair has joined the *Eldon Advertiser's* advertising staff. She's a native of Mary's Home and a graduate of Eugene Cole R-V High School.

Fair and her husband have three children and a granddaughter.

Fair previously worked for the Miller County Sheriff's Department and most recently for the Missouri Ozarks Community Action Agency.

• **St. James** — Marissa Prewitt, sales

representative for the *St. James Leader-Journal*, has left the paper and moved with her husband, Casey, to Omaha, where he began a new job as a mechanical engineer for Union Pacific Railroad.

Prewitt, a native of Chillicothe and a graduate of Truman State University in Kirksville, joined the *Leader-Journal* in October. She previously taught second grade in Sedalia.

• **Gainesville** — Regina Wynn, news editor of the *Ozark County Times*, and Brian Mozingo of Monett were married May 21 in Mountain Home, Ark.

Wynn has left the newspaper after 11 years on staff.

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### *Museum gets points tucked*

The 1868 I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall and Print Shop in Arrow Rock has been tuckpointed, and the trim and metal roof have been painted, thanks to the support of the Missouri Press Foundation, the Grand Lodge of Missouri I.O.O.F. and donors to the Friends of Arrow Rock 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign. The MPA Newspaper Print Shop Museum is open daily throughout the summer in the historic village of Arrow Rock, located in Saline County. MPA established the Print Shop Museum in 1966. (Photo provided by Friends of Arrow Rock.)

## Press Foundation Joplin fund

In an effort to assist Missouri newspaper employees impacted by the May 22 Joplin tornado, the Missouri Press Association has established a disaster fund within the Missouri Press Foundation.

Reports have been received that the homes of at least 25 employees of *The Joplin Globe* were heavily damaged or destroyed. Employees of GateHouse Media's *Big Nickel* publication also were affected by the tragedy.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the Missouri Press Foundation, 802 Locust Street, Columbia, MO 65201. Or you can make a donation online at <http://tinyurl.com/44szw5r>.

The Missouri Press Foundation Board of Directors will oversee 100 percent distribution of the funds.

The Foundation, chartered in 1984, is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

## Obituaries

Kansas City

### Dick Nichols

**R**ichard Garland "Dick" Nichols, 83, a longtime employee of *The Kansas City Star*, died May 9, 2011, at his home in Olathe.

During a journalism career that spanned 45 years, Mr. Nichols was employed by *The Kansas City Star* and *The Kansas City Times*, working his way up from a cub reporter to the position of state editor on the city desk.

He was *The Star's* first full-time Johnson County correspondent, occupying an office in Olathe and later Mission. He retired Feb. 28, 1990, the last day there was an evening edition of *The Star*.

In 2004 Mr. Nichols and his wife, also a former journalist, received the Joe McGuff Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kansas City Press Club.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret; three children, six grandchildren, an honorary granddaughter and two sisters.

St. Robert

### Linda Campbell

**L**inda Campbell, 62, St. Robert, circulation manager of the *Waynesville Daily Guide* for nearly 20 years, died April 15, 2011.

Cabool

### C. Russell Wood

**C.** Russell Wood, 76, former publisher of *The Cabool Enterprise*, died May 20, 2011.

Wood and his wife, Joanne, bought *The Enterprise* in 1975. They served as publishers for a longer period of time than anyone in its history, running paper until 1998, except for a 20-month period in the early 1980s.

Kansas City

### Karen Gillig

**K**aren M. Gillig, 68, Kansas City, the daughter of the late Jay and Eunice Graff, publishers of the *Hermann Advertiser-Courier*, died Feb. 19, 2011.

# Foundation will fund 10 internships

## Board votes to reactivate Foundation Builders fund-raising program

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Missouri Press Foundation was held April 28, in the William A. Bray conference room, Missouri Press Association building, Columbia.

The meeting was called to order by President Betty S. Spaar.

The Foundation Board members unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting conducted on May 6, 2010.

The 2010 financial review by Gerding, Korte & Chitwood, PC, CPAs was presented by Rose Lloyd of GKC. The MPF financial report for the first quarter of 2011 was presented by Ms. Lloyd, also. The financial review and the financial report were accepted unanimously.

Copies of the Foundation Board's conflict of interest policy were distributed and signed by board members. No potential conflicts of interest were reported by members.

Doug Crews reported that 10 summer internships are to be funded in 2011 at Missouri newspapers. He reviewed the Edward L. Steele Scholarship, the Jacob Gierke Scholarships, the William A. and

Jo Anne Bray Scholarship, the Douglas D. Davis Scholarship, and Missouri Young Journalists of the Year Awards.

Bill Miller, Sr. presented a report on the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame in Washington, MO, preparing to

accept its seventh class of inductees this fall. He said the Hall of Fame

is open Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 o'clock.

Doug Crews reported the

Foundation's proposed budget would support the annual 2011 Missouri Press Association Convention and District Press Association meetings, as needed.

Dawn Kitchell presented a report of Foundation activities, including Newspapers In Education and regional workshops.

The Board members unanimously approved reimplementing the Foundation Builders program in which newspapers are invited to donate to the Foundation an amount equivalent to a quarter-page of advertising.

Testimonial ads to promote the Foundation Builders program and Newspapers In Education will be designed and distributed.

Dawn Kitchell is coordinating the making of a quilt with MPA newspaper flags/logos to be raffled as a fundraising project for the Foundation.

The annual budget for 2011 for the Foundation was unanimously approved.

The following were elected unanimously as Directors, terms expiring in 2014: Bill James, Ed Steele, Bill Miller, Sr., Rogers Hewitt, Kirk Powell.

The following were elected unanimously as Officers for the coming year: President Betty Spaar, 1st Vice President Wendell Lenhart, 2nd Vice President Kirk Powell, Secretary-Treasurer Doug Crews.

Attending the meeting were: President Betty S. Spaar, Second Vice President Kirk Powell, Bill Miller, Sr., Robert Wilson, James C. Sterling, Edward Steele, Dane Vernon, Secretary-Treasurer Doug Crews.

Excused absent were: Directors Tom Miller, Sr., R. B. Smith III, Wendell Lenhart, Chuck Haney, Vicki Russell, Bill James, Rogers Hewitt; and Honorary Directors Emeritus Wanda A. Brown and Wallace Vernon.



## Jim Curry honored in Ava

Attorneys and community leaders in Ava honored James E. "Jim" Curry, 90, longtime owner and publisher of the *Douglas County Herald*, for a lifetime of service to the community.

An attorney in Ava for more than 60 years, Curry has been a member in virtually every civic and service organization in the area. The mayor of Ava and the presiding commissioner of Douglas County proclaimed May 2 as James E. Curry Day.

The proclamation noted Curry's 44 years as Ava city attorney, six years as Douglas County prosecuting attorney and his involvement with numerous government and civic organizations.

Curry graduated from Ava High School as valedictorian and went on to earn a law degree at the University of Missouri in 1948. He immediately opened an office in Ava and practiced until the age of 84.

He continues going to the newspaper office every morning, and each week waits for the *Herald* to roll off the press.

Curry bought stock in the *Herald* in 1946 and became a partner in the newspaper with his father, J.E. "Elmer" Curry. When Elmer retired in 1969, Jim Curry became publisher.

The *Herald*, established in 1887, has been in the Curry family since 1910.

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# Scrapbook

• **Marshfield** — A Marshfield pastor won an iPad2 in the N2Marshfield contest. Scott Weldon answered the question “What makes Marshfield great?” and his name was drawn from a pool of 25 finalists.

N2Marshfield is the *Marshfield Mail's* community digital bulletin board.

Weldon said he joined N2Marshfield to keep up with Marshfield events. “We had a gospel concert at our church..., and N2Marshfield’s Community Calendar was a great way to get the word out about it,” he said.

• **Mexico** — *The Ledger's* 18th North Central Missouri Salute to Literacy was held April 26 at the Missouri Military Academy. Five residents who have made significant contributions to literacy were honored.

Donald Shire, a former Mexico High School teacher and author, received the Community Literacy Award. Several years ago Shire worked with *The Ledger's* Newspaper In Education program and its Salute to Literacy observance. He also worked with Missouri Press Association on NIE projects.

Shire was the guest speaker for Salute to Literacy. He talked about writing history and his book “Mexico, Missouri: Our All-American City in the All-American Century.”

*The Ledger's* NIE director, Kathy Crag-

head, was emcee for the event.

• **Bowling Green** — *The Times* invited readers to enter pictures of their pets in a Crazy Critter Contest. Three categories in the online photo contest were cutest, funniest and most unusual.

Online voting for the favorite photos ended May 29, and the winners were announced in the June 1 edition of *The Times*.

Each winner received \$25 from *The Times*, and the photo receiving the

most votes got a pet bath, a grooming session and pet odor candles from local businesses.

• **Joplin** — *Joplin Tri-State Business Journal* held a Newspalooza event on April 8 in observance of the fifth anniversary of the launch of the semi-monthly newspaper in 2006. About 125 people attended the celebration.

On April 10 the *Business Journal* published a special issue that examined the stories and people that impacted business and the economy the last five years.

• **Sedalia** — *The Democrat* in April ended delivery of *Free Wednesday* to non-subscribers. In its place, *The Democrat* has created the *Free Plainsman*. It's an expanded version of the *Pettis Plainsman*, which was distributed inside *The Democrat* and in racks around the area.

The weekly *Free Plainsman* is delivered to 12,000 homes by carriers and 2,000 copies are placed in racks in more than 30 locations in Sedalia. Readers also can see the new publication at a new website, freeplainsman.com.

• **Warrensburg** — Leanna Eckhoff, a reporter for the *Daily Star-Journal*, presented a program on Newspaper In Education on April 13 at the Spring Banquet of the West Central chapter of the International Reading Association.

Eckhoff gave each guest an NIE packet and explained the various academic skills and activities that can be taught using a



Hannah Satnan, a junior at Smith-Cotton High School in Sedalia, will spend her senior year in Germany as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

## Sedalia editor's daughter chosen to study in Germany for year

**S**EDALIA—Hannah Satnan, 16, the daughter of *Sedalia Democrat* Editor Bob Satnan and his wife, Melany, was chosen to study abroad through the Rotary Youth Exchange program. She will leave this summer to spend 11 months living with three different host families in Germany.

Hannah has never been outside the U.S. She told the Sedalia Rotary Club that her desire to travel was piqued at a school assembly in October when she heard another student talk about studying in France. After discussing the idea with her parents, she filled out the Rotary Youth Exchange program application later that day.

The Sedalia Rotary Club sponsored and recommended Hannah.

newspaper.

• **St. Robert** — *The Pulaski County Mirror* office moved on May 1 from Richland to St. Robert.

Editor Randy Suggs continues to cover the Richland area for the weekly. Steve Smith reports on St. Robert and Waynesville.

*The Mirror* is a Dalton Wright, Lebanon Publishing Co., newspaper.

• **Rogersville** — *The South County Mail* has brought back its “10 Questions” feature, which had been dropped from the printed edition for space reasons.

Editor Alyssa Spradlin said the popular feature has been revived as a video feature on southcountymail.com. People from around the community are asked questions for the feature.

• **Hannibal** — *The Courier-Post* has added a feature to its website called Local Loop. Readers are invited to submit their photos to Local Loop categories Local Events, Pets & Animals and Your Life.

The paper also asked readers to send in weather drawings done by children.

• **St. Louis** — *The St. Louis American* held a “Money Wise Workshops” event on April 2 at AfroWorld International. Edward Jones and Midwest BankCentre sponsored the event.

Sessions included investments and financial topics, credit programs and home buyer options. Other sessions taught children lessons about finances.

• **Hamilton** — *The Caldwell County News* has started selling digital editions. Cost is \$35 for print and online editions in Missouri, \$40 for out of Missouri, or \$24.99 for the online only subscription.

• **New Haven** — *New Haven Leader* editor Buck Collier has been named to the Board of Directors of the Franklin County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA’s trained volunteers represent the interests of children who have been placed in the care of the state.

Collier is one of 12 board members

responsible for setting policy for Franklin County CASA.

• **Nixa** — *Nixa Xpress* reporter Emily Hoffman and graphic designer Adam Letterman were married in April at the Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs, Ark.

• **Stockton** — *The Cedar County Republican* and other Neighbor Newspapers have started offering a Today’s Deal feature. Like similar online programs, for brief periods of time readers can buy “coupons” for deeply discounted merchandise or services.

Readers sign up to receive notices of new Today’s Deal offers.

• **Nevada** — Two niche magazines produced by the *Nevada Daily Mail* and *Fort Scott Tribune* have won awards in the Suburban Newspapers of America editorial contest.

“Ageless” and “She” magazines are published by Rust MOKS, which is owned by Rust Communications, Cape Girardeau. Rust also owns the Nevada and Fort Scott newspapers.

Last year’s spring issue of “She” won second place in the “wild card niche publication” category for newspapers with circulation of 25,000 or less. That issue’s theme was parenting.

The summer 2010 issue of “Ageless,” which focuses on people age 50 and older, won an honorable mention award in the same “wild card” category. It was the quarterly publication’s sec-

ond issue.

“She” is being published six times this year, up from four times last year.

Lynn A. Wade, Rust MOKS regional managing editor, is the editor for both magazines.

• **Plattsburg** — Tinnen Publishing Co., publisher of the *Clinton County Leader* and *The Paper*, was named Business of the Year in April by the Plattsburg Chamber of Commerce.

• **Jefferson City** — *The News Tribune* offered a \$100 prize to the winner of a drawing from names of those who filled out ballots for its 2011 Readers’ Choice contest of local businesses.

The contest was created to honor local businesses. Rankings were based entirely on the views of a majority of readers responding to the survey. Local businesses and individuals were honored for first, second, third and honorable mention in each of 100 categories.

• **Malden** — As part of its yearly Reflections Edition, the *Delta News Citizen* featured several of the historic homes in the area. Most of the featured homes were built in the early 1900s. Many were built of swamp cypress after the U.S. government drained the swampland of Southeast Missouri.

• **Elsberry** — *The Elsberry Democrat* created a special web page dedicated to the Associated Press coverage of the

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wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. The page remained live for a week after the wedding.

• **Stockton** — The *Cedar County Republican* included a special tribute to area mothers in its May 4 issue. Readers could pay \$22 to have photos of their mothers or mothers with their children published.

The newspaper sent announcements containing the link to the online section to up to five email addresses so readers could share the tribute with friends and family.

One mother was selected at random to receive two free massages.

• **Sedalia** — *The Democrat* at the beginning of May introduced a redesign, including a new nameplate, to its readers.

The front page now includes more promotions of content inside the paper. Page 2 now contains some of the paper's most popular features: weather report, police and public safety briefs and a three-day calendar of community events.

Obituaries were moved to page 4 and reformatted.

QR (quick response) codes have been added throughout the paper. Readers can scan them with smartphones and link to extended coverage such as slide shows or video.

• **De Soto** — Eight senior citizens were selected at random from the crowd at Leader Publications' Senior Expo in De Soto and taken in a pink limousine to the River City Casino.

The Expo was sponsored by *Grand Times*, Leader Publications' magazine for seniors. The lucky eight had signed up to travel by bus to the casino following the April 20 Expo at the De Soto Knights of Columbus Hall. About 500 people attended the event.

Leader Publications added De Soto to its lineup of senior expos this spring. Expos are held each year in Festus and Arnold.

*Grand Times* also in April held its annual "Show Off Your Grandkids" photo contest. Winning photos will be published in the summer edition of *Grand Times*, which will be delivered in the June 16 issue of the *Jefferson County*

*Leader* and the *Arnold-Imperial Leader*.

• **Ellington** — Harold and Brenda Ellinghouse, publishers of the *Reynolds County Courier*, have donated a 135-year-old Washington hand press to the Reynolds County Museum in Ellington. The press is believed to have printed Reynolds County newspapers in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The press was housed in the *Courier* office until the 1960s, when it was moved to the *Wayne County Journal-Banner* office in Piedmont for demonstrations at an open house. Jesse James wanted posters were printed on the press during the event.

• **Cameron** — Awards were presented to area students in the second annual Cameron Newspapers Academic All-Star banquet on April 29. General manager D'Anna Balliett presented the \$1,000 Tracie Steele Memorial Scholarship to North Daviess High School senior Grant Hartley.

The award is named for a Cameron Newspapers employee who died in 2010. Hartley was chosen from among 30 students who were honored for their

academic achievements during their senior year in high school.

FFA member Brooke Bradshaw received the Cameron Newspapers Senior Scholarship at the Cameron FFA chapter banquet.

• **Warrenton** — Derrick Forsythe, 26, sports editor of the *Warren County Record*, received the Warrenton Elks Lodge Citizen of the Year award during the Elks' annual banquet this spring.

Forsythe was recognized for his coverage of the Warrenton football team's first trip to the state championship game.

• **Lebanon** — The *Daily Record* extended its free e-edition until sometime in June.

Editor Julie Turner-Crawford said response to the e-edition has been tremendous, but some online readers were having trouble seeing the edition.

Ozarks Digital Media webmaster Caleb Clark was working with TownNews, host of the e-edition, to address problems.

*The Daily Record* launched its new online edition on April 22.



## Missouri Press Foundation

**T**hese individuals and organizations made recent contributions to Missouri Press Foundation. Donations advance the journalism training and historical preservation projects of Missouri Press. All are greatly appreciated.

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Mr. and Mrs. William L. Miller, Washington, Mo.



## Washington students win NAA Foundation awards

**T**wo students who are staff members of the *Washington Missourian's* My MO youth page placed in the Newspaper Association of America Foundation's 2011 Youth Content Awards competition.

Haylee Chance, left, who lives in Marthasville and is a student at Washington High School, received first place in the photography category for "Senior Night Football." Anthony Hoffman, right, who lives in Washington and is a student at Heritage Classical Christian Academy, received third place in the illustration/graphic category for "Who Is the Scariest One of Them All," a Halloween illustration.

My MO editor Paul Hackbarth is in the center.

The NAA Foundation Youth Content Awards recognize original stories, artwork and photographs by students ages 13 and up who work with their local newspapers to produce youth content. (*Washington Missourian* photo)

## Art teacher receives *Sedalia Democrat* honor

By **TONYA FENNELL** / *The Sedalia Democrat*

**A** Green Ridge art teacher and coach has been chosen as the Newspapers in Education program teacher of the year (for *The Sedalia Democrat*).

Lori Larimore received the honor from Brandon Grose, circulation director for *The Democrat*. Grose is also in charge of the Newspapers in Education program.

Grose presented Larimore with a marble apple and gift cards to Walmart, K-Mart and Big Lots.

Newspapers in Education is a cooperative effort among schools, newspapers, businesses and organizations to promote the use of newspapers as a teaching tool in the classroom.

The award is based on how teachers use the newspaper in the classroom, what impact the program has on the students and how active the teacher is in the program. A selection committee determines the annual winner.

The Teacher of the Year award has been presented by *The Democrat* since about 1996, a few years after the newspaper created its Newspapers in Education

program. The program offers teachers free papers for their classrooms.

Larimore teaches art to kindergarten through 12th grade students and also is varsity volleyball coach.

"I know I use the newspaper in ways different from other classroom teachers, but I think it is important to get it in their hands," Larimore said.

"Each time a student opens the newspaper something will catch their eye and they will want to take it home or just

take time out to read."

Larimore was nominated by principal Ron Franklin.

"She can actively engage an entire kindergarten class and an hour later take on a high school class that may have students working at four levels on four entirely different projects," Franklin said.

"She can create a multitude of projects that allow all students to succeed in art, and Mrs. Larimore accomplishes this on a shoestring budget."

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# Joplin editor helped choose Pulitzers

Carol Stark participated on team of seven judging commentary entries

By CAROL STARK / Editor, *The Joplin Globe*

*“Our Republic and its press will rise or fall together. An able, disinterested, public-spirited press, with trained intelligence to know the right and courage to do it, can preserve that public virtue without which popular government is a sham and a mockery. A cynical, mercenary, demagogic press will produce in time a people as base as itself. The power to mould the future of the Republic will be in the hands of the journalists of future generations.”* - Joseph Pulitzer, 1904

Pulitzer penned these words as he wrote in support of his proposal for the founding of a school of journalism. In 1912, one year after Pulitzer’s death, the Columbia School of Journalism in New York City was founded. The first Pulitzer Prizes were awarded in 1917 under the supervision of the advisory board to which he had entrusted his mandate.

I had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Columbia School of Journalism in early March, and to sit in the Pulitzer World Room receiving my instructions as a juror of the commentary category of the Pulitzer Prizes.

I know, I’m as surprised as you are. I’ll back you up to December, when I saw the envelope with The Pulitzer Prizes stamped on the return address. I figured it was the annual call for entries. Since I’ve been at the *Globe*, we’ve submitted two entries for consideration for the top prize in journalism. It’s a lot of work, but certainly would be worth all that work to win one.

I put the letter aside until the end of the day. As I cleared off my desk, I opened it and got this surprise. It was an invitation to sit on the nominating jury. Rarely am I rendered speechless. Let’s just say it was a while before I could catch my breath.

About 100 editors and university professors from across the United States are asked to participate in the judging each year. They look for real diversity in their judges. The mix results in the use

of editors from large and small papers, as well as online-only media.

I went to New York City and spent three very intense days reading commentary from some 169 entrants. I was one of seven judges to serve on this particular category. Each entrant submitted a “body of work,” usually seven or eight examples of their work.

I’ve always heard that the awarding of a Pulitzer Prize is very political. You have to know someone somewhere to even get a nod. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Among the entrants were columnists from all sizes of newspapers, letter writers, humor columnists, business columnists and even a guy whose cover letter intrigued all of us.

“These columns got me fired,” he began.

Well, who can resist finding out what great secret he had uncovered. Reading on we learned he was a freelance writer who got fired because the paper’s budget got the ax.

On (April 18), the Pulitzer Prizes were awarded. If you’re interested, check it out at [www.pulitzer.org](http://www.pulitzer.org). Our job as jurors was to present the Pulitzer

Board with three nominees. We were instructed not to rank the three because the final decision would be made by the board.

The winner in the commentary category was David Leonhardt who writes “Economic Scene,” a weekly economics column for *The New York Times* business section.

Leonhardt is one of the few business writers — and there are many — who can deliver a column not bogged down by jargon. In fact, he created his own reader quiz, asking readers to fix the budget. We read his columns on the first day, thus setting a high bar for all the others.

The two other finalists in commentary were Philip Morris of *The Plain Dealer* in Cleveland, and Mary Schmich of *The Chicago Tribune*. Morris used local storytelling in his discussion of controversial issues. Schmich’s columns were sometimes poignant. We were all moved by a column she wrote that described how she read poems to her dying mother. In another column, after her mother dies, she tells her readers how difficult it was for her to cancel her mother’s newspaper subscription of nearly 70 years.

Take a look at any of these three columns. You won’t be disappointed.

Joseph Pulitzer was the former owner of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and later *The New York World*.

In reading about his life, I found it interesting that he once was part of the social elite, but had to abandon his lifestyle when he became a newspaper owner.

He wanted the public to accept that he was their champion, so rubbing elbows with the rich and famous was out. He later was known as a serious journalist whose editorials assailed government corruption, wealthy tax-dodgers and gamblers.

Pulitzer made sure that his legacy will always be remembered by establishing the prizes.

I know that my brief brush with the Pulitzers won’t soon be forgotten.

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*I’ve always heard that the awarding of a Pulitzer Prize is very political. You have to know someone somewhere to even get a nod. Nothing could be further from the truth.*

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# Just to read a record shouldn't cost money

*Decision could have huge impact on access*

I was in court a couple of weeks ago arguing a sunshine law case for a non-media client. As I worked on the argument, I worried about what the future holds for the sunshine law if we are unsuccessful in convincing our judge as to what we believe the right decision should be.

The case relates to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. It has computerized its accident reports and, I assume, its incident reports. If you want to see an accident report, you must identify what record you want and pay for a copy to be made. They then print out the copy and charge you for it.

There are no paper copies available to look at — to “inspect,” in sunshine law terms — in order to decide which reports you might want to pay to have copied. And there is no public computer terminal to review them, like the courts make available at courthouses to look for court files and docket sheets.

Why are there no paper copies, and why is there no computer terminal available? Because, the police department says, it cannot afford to provide these to the public. Therefore, they argue, when the sunshine law talks about your right to “inspect and copy” records, those two terms go together. You can only “inspect” the record if you can afford to copy it.

This doesn't work for my client, who inspects a lot of records and is very interested in accident reports. My client wants to see all of the reports, choose the ones she wants and pay for copies of those specific records. Paying for copies of every accident report in St. Louis quickly becomes cost-prohibitive.

If the St. Louis Police Department

wins this argument, all of us will be losers. If you then want to read the minutes of a city council meeting, you could have to pay for a copy to read them. If you want to see your town's financial report, you could have to pay for a copy just to read it.

If I want to see a liquor control department filing, I may have to pay for a copy of it (I remember going in and just asking to inspect the record so I could make a few notes about what a filing needed to say, but not needing a copy to take back to the office with me).

If you are a low-income person who wants to know about your city government, you might not be able to find out anything, because if you cannot pay for a copy, access to government information could be denied to you. Your access to government could depend on how much you can afford to pay.

The fundamentals of government in the United States have never been based upon the cost of freedom and access. Closing records is based upon certain criteria that relates to a proper basis to prohibit access, and the sunshine law says those restrictions are to be “strictly construed.”

The inability to pay for access to records is not — and never has been — a reason to deny access to public records to individuals.

The police department argues that printing all these copies of the accident reports, and taking time to review them to redact anything that is closed, is going to cost them time and money. But these reports are computerized. A bit of programming would allow the police to



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limit what is made public to the fields of data that are specifically designated as open under the sunshine law. Then they could simply push a “print” button, all the records would be printed and the staff person assigned to this job could be on to other tasks.

We aren't talking about a person standing over a photocopy machine using white-out on individual records to redact information, then hand-photocopying every accident report.

What an affront to the intent of the sunshine law their position on this issue is!

The basic policy of the sunshine law, as you know, is that records of public bodies are open. It doesn't say that they are open to only those with pockets deep enough to cover the government's record-making cost.

Your Press Association filed for amicus status at the circuit court level in this matter.

We are waiting for a decision in this case. That decision will impact both those seeking access to records and those producing records for us.

If this court holds that government agencies need to produce records only for those paying for them, I expect there will be a huge shift in the policies of public bodies in Missouri.

I'll keep you posted on this one! Either way the decision goes, I won't be surprised if this isn't just the beginning of this argument.

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*My client wants to see all of the reports, choose the ones she wants and pay for copies of those specific records. Paying for copies of every accident report in St. Louis quickly becomes cost-prohibitive.*

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## Missouri Newspaper Organizations

**NORTHWEST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, Matt Daugherty, Smithville/Kearney/Liberty; 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; Jim McPherson, Weston; Chuck Haney, Chillicothe; Adam Johnson, Mound City; Steve Tinnen, Plattsburg; Kay Wilson, Maryville; Steve Booher, St. Joseph; D'Anna Balliett, Cameron.

**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.

**OZARK PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, Keith Moore, Ava; Vice President, Whitney Anderson, Crane; Secretary-Treasurer, Dala Whittaker, Cabool. Directors: Roger Dillon, Eminence; Brad Gentry, Houston; Jeff Schrag, Springfield; Chris Case, Cuba; Tianna Brooks, Mountain View; Sharon Vaughn, Summersville.

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI PRESS ASSOCIATION:** President, Betty Watkins, Dexter; First Vice President, Sherry Greminger, Park Hills; Second Vice President, Donna Denson, Cape Girardeau; Secretary-Treasurer, Michelle Friedrich, Poplar Bluff; Executive Secretary, Ann Hayes, Southeast Missouri State University; Historian, Peggy Scott, Festus. Directors: Gera LeGrand, Cape Girardeau; Kim Combs, Piedmont; Judy Schaaf-Wheeler, Ironton; H. Scott Seal, Portageville; Kate Martin, Perryville; Deanna Nelson, Sikeston.

**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, Brenda Carney, Harrisonville; First Vice President, Jack Kaminsky, Joplin; Second Vice President, Steve Edwards, St. Joseph; Secretary, David Pine, Kansas City; Treasurer, Doug Crews, Columbia. Directors: Jim Kennedy, Bolivar; Ken Carpenter, Kansas City; Rob Siebeneck, Jefferson City.

**MISSOURI ADVERTISING MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION:** President, Dennis Warden, Owensville; First Vice President, Jane Haslag, Jefferson City; Second Vice President, Jana Todd, Warrenton; Secretary, Jeanine York, Washington; Treasurer, Kristie Williams, Columbia. Directors: Suzie Wilson, Milan; Bruce Wallace, Ashland; Brian Rice, Excelsior Springs; Lisa Miller, Camdenton; Kevin Jones, St. Louis. Past President, Stacy Rice, Drexel.

**MISSOURI ASSOCIATED DAILIES:** President, Joe May, Mexico; Vice President, vacant; Secretary, Shelly Arth, Marshall; Treasurer, Doug Crews, Columbia; Past President, Larry Freels, Kirksville. Directors: Jack Whitaker, Hannibal; Arnie Robbins, St. Louis; Dan Potter, Columbia.

**MISSOURI PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS:** President, Colene McEntee, St. Charles; President-Elect, vacant; Secretary, Peggy Koch, Barnhart; Treasurer, Roxanne Miller, Ballwin; Public Relations Officer, Suzanne Corbett, St. Louis; Membership Officer, Linda Briggs-Harty, St. Louis; Contest Director, Janice Denham, Kirkwood; Quest Awards Directors, Susan Fadem, St. Louis, and Marge Polcyn, St. Louis; Conference Director, vacant; Archivist, Dee Rabey, Granite City, Ill.; Past President, Fran Mannino, Kirkwood.

**MISSOURI PRESS SERVICE:** President, Vicki Russell, Columbia; Vice President, Jack Whitaker, Hannibal; Secretary-Treasurer, Dave Bradley, St. Joseph. Directors: Steve Oldfield, Adrian, John Spaar, Odessa.

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## CALENDAR

### June

- 3 — Southeast Missouri Press Association, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau
- 9 — MPA/MPS Board of Directors meeting, 8 a.m., Hannibal Quality Inn
- 9 — MPA Porter Fisher Golf Classic, Mosswood Meadows Golf Course, Monroe City
- 9-11 — Show-Me Press Association, Hannibal Quality Inn, Hannibal

### July

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

### September

- 8 — MPA/MPA Board meeting, Hilton Convention Center, Branson
- 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.

## Defamation suit against newspaper, editor, sheriff dismissed by judge

**M**T. VERNON—A lawsuit against the sheriff of Lawrence County, the *Lawrence County Record* and *Record* editor Kathy Fairchild has been dismissed.

The plaintiff, a former sheriff's office employee, claimed the defendants defamed her in a newspaper article on an escape from the jail and inmate unrest that followed.

U.S. District Judge Richard Dorr granted *Record* attorney Jean Maneke's motion for summary judgment in favor of the defendants, saying, "There is no evidence that Fairchild or the *LCR* were negligent or engaged in actual malice in publishing the article."

The order for dismissal of the suit against the sheriff noted that the plaintiff failed to submit a response to the sheriff's attorney's motion for summary judgment. (from the *Lawrence County Record*)



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