

# The Tennessee Press

Official Publication of the Tennessee Press Association

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## INSIDE

Fisher: Elvis dispatch call has left the building

Page 2

Policinski: Supreme Court enters social media realm

Page 3

News & Moves

Page 3

Pumarlo: Beware 11th hour election shenanigans

Page 5

2022 TPA SPC Awards Luncheon photos

Pages 6-7, 12

Voices & Images: National Newspaper Week (Oct. 2-8)

Page 9

Spinner: Paywalls a problem for young readers?

Page 10

Obituaries

Page 11

## McNeely resigns TPA presidency

STAFF REPORTS  
The Tennessee Press  
September 22, 2022

Jack McNeely, who was elected TPA president in June, has resigned from the TPA Board of Directors in light of his departure from the Cleveland Banner and Herald-Citizen, Cookeville.

McNeely has accepted a severance from Paxton Media, the new owners of the Herald-Citizen and Banner. McNeely's last day with the newspapers was to be Oct. 7.

The TPA Bylaws require that the Board of Directors assemble with the purpose of electing a new president within 60 days. The most recent TPA past president available, will preside at the Nov. 3 meeting until the new president is elected. The meeting is also the scheduled Fall Board of Directors Meeting.

In a scenario similar to McNeely's, Scott Critchlow, who



McNeely



S. Critchlow

was serving as a TPA's District One Director, has resigned from the Board. Scott and his brother, David Critchlow, Jr., sold the Union City Daily Messenger and Weakley County Press on Sept. 20 to the Mirror-Exchange Co. owned by Victor Parkins and his sister Scarlet Elliott.

The new TPA president will be tasked with filling the directorship vacated by Critchlow.

McNeely had been on the Board since 2016 and Critchlow had served since 2015.

## Mirror-Exchange buys Union City, Weakley County newspapers

SUBMITTED  
The Mirror-Exchange, Milan  
September 22, 2022

It's the end of an era, but the future remains bright. The Mirror-Exchange, Inc. has acquired the The Union City Messenger and its sister publication, The Weakley County Press in Martin.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 20, the two publications were purchased by the local newspaper group owned by siblings Victor Parkins and Scarlet Elliott of Milan.

The siblings are second-generation newspaper publishers. Their parents, Bob and Dorris Parkins, started the Mirror-Exchange in Milan in 1966. The Mirror-Exchange also owns The Trenton Gazette, The Humboldt Chronicle, The Tri-City Reporter and the

See **PURCHASES** Page 2



SUBMITTED

Siblings Scarlet Elliott and Victor Parkins, co-owners of The Mirror-Exchange, Inc., Milan, each hold an edition of their company's recent purchases.

## Paxton moves Banner's print operations to Sevierville

SUBMITTED  
Cleveland Daily Banner  
October 10, 2022

Effective Monday, Oct. 10, the Cleveland Daily Banner's Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday print editions were being printed at Paxton Media Group's production hub in Sevierville, ending 168 years of this newspaper's printing history in Cleveland.

Delivery of the Banner's print editions to its subscribers will continue via U.S. mail on regular schedule.

Additionally, the Banner will maintain its business and advertis-

ing offices, as well as its newsroom, in Cleveland. The remaining staff will be relocating soon to leased office space in Cleveland. The current commercial property and building at 1505 25th Street will be sold.

"The collaboration and synergies now being deployed by the newspaper's new owner will strengthen the financial footing here in Cleveland," said Publisher Jack McNeely. "At the end of day, we can't lose sight of our mission, to continue serving Cleveland and Bradley County with a viable, credible news product well into the future."

Seven full-time and three part-time positions were eliminated Friday following the final press run. All affected production workers received severance packages.

McNeely also accepted a severance package Friday, capping off a 36-year career. He served the past two years as group publisher over markets in Cleveland and Cookeville, Tennessee, Cartersville and Chatsworth, Georgia, and Jasper, Alabama. He and his wife, Nora, are relocating to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, by December.

Long-time Banner employee Joyce Taylor remains as general manager and has day-to-day over-

sight in Cleveland.

Last month, The Paducah, Kentucky-based Paxton Media Group purchased the Banner, as well as the four other newspapers owned by Cleveland Newspapers Inc., and Cookeville Newspapers Inc., which were owned by Walls Newspapers for more than 65 and 47 years, respectively.

Since 1854, the Banner has printed continuously, except during the Civil War when its publisher, Robert McNelley, was arrested by Union troops in 1863, and the newspaper was shuttered

See **BANNER** Page 9

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**The Tennessee Press**

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 Robyn Gentile ..... Production Coordinator



  
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**CONTACT THE MANAGING EDITOR**

TPAers with suggestions, questions or comments about items in The Tennessee Press are welcome to contact the managing editor. Call Mike Towle, (615) 293-5771; or email editor@tnpress.com. The deadline for the December 2022 issue is November 5, 2022.

# Dispatch call on Elvis death left the building and left a mystery

*Editor's note: This column is part of a series written for Tennessee Press Association member newspapers that explores transparency in government in Tennessee.*

When Elvis Presley was found on the floor at Graceland on Aug. 16, 1977, his road manager called the Memphis Fire Department, and an ambulance was dispatched to the scene.

Now, a recording of that call has surfaced at the Tigerman Karate Dojo and Museum in Memphis, advertised as the “fateful 911 call” that “you can hear for the first time ever.” Admission is \$24.99.

Why is the recording here, with a private operator, and not in the archives of the Memphis Fire Department?

Billy Stallings said he was given a copy of the recording on a CD at no cost for use in the museum from an individual previously with the fire department, although he won't reveal who gave it to him.

It lasts about an hour, he said, and contains police and fire department radio traffic related to the response to the call, including the transport of Elvis' body to Baptist Hospital. Stallings said he has edited the recording down to about two minutes for museum visitors.

The recording clearly has historical value. And the original recording is most certainly a government record. State law allows for government to retrieve government records that have gone missing.

In Tennessee, the most famous



**TN COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT**  
 DEBORAH FISHER

case is the retrieval of an unexecuted marriage license of Davy Crockett that had been taken by a Jefferson County official who had served as the county's trustee, and then court judge. He gave it to his brother in the 1930s or '40s, and it ended up in the hands of his niece.

The case went all the way to the Court of Appeals in 2011 because the niece, who lived in Florida, considered the document hers. She said her uncle rescued it when “they were clearing out the courthouse of a lot of papers because of more room and space needed,” and her uncle thought his brother “would get a kick out of having this particular piece of paper.”

She even went on the PBS series “Antiques Roadshow” to get her treasure appraised (insurance value, \$60,000). According to legend, the marriage license was unexecuted because Crockett was jilted when his fiancée ran off with another man.

As for the Elvis tape, Bill Adelman, the curator of the fire department's Fire Museum of Memphis, said it's unlikely that the original reel-to-reel tape still exists.

Dispatch tapes were kept for a year, he said, then erased and re-

used unless they were related to a firefighter's injury, fire death or a significant event.

Adelman, however, said he was given a cassette copy of the Elvis dispatch call in the early 2000s for the purpose of putting it in the fire museum where he then worked. He said he listened to it many times. But his job at the museum was eliminated before he could build the exhibit.

Adelman was rehired two years ago at the museum but said he has lost track of the location of the cassette copy in his home. He said it is his personal copy and he did not give it to Stallings.

Stallings says the recording has interesting content, including Elvis' road manager, Joe Esposito, calling a second time to the fire department, asking where the ambulance was, emergency responders having to go back to Graceland after the hospital because they left bags there, and Esposito saying someone was not breathing although the call was dispatched as someone having difficulty breathing. Stallings said the call shows it took about seven minutes for the ambulance to get to the home.

Another person has a recording —Raymond Chiozza, the then-21-year-old fire department dispatcher on the Elvis call who is now the director of the Shelby County Emergency Communications District (911). He said they often made

See **ELVIS** Page 5

**PURCHASES from Page 1**

Lexington Progress.

David Critchlow Jr. and Scott Critchlow, owners of The Messenger and The Press, made the announcement Sept. 21.

“We were not necessarily looking to sell, but an opportunity presented itself that we thought would be beneficial to everyone, including our staff and the newspapers, moving forward,” the Critchlows said in a press release. “Like many businesses, we have faced some challenges since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but with the help of our amazing staff, we have battled through it.”

The Critchlow brothers are third-generation owners of the newspapers. The Messenger was purchased in 1940 by Ed S. Critchlow, who was then succeeded by his son, David Critchlow.

David Jr. and Scott followed in their footsteps after graduating from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1986 and 1988, respectively.

The new owners have long ties to the Critchlows and The Messenger, covering more than 50 years.

“We know we are leaving our staff, subscribers and advertisers in good hands as the Parkinses run an excellent family operation,” Scott said. “They have a true sense

of community and, with a history in the newspaper business, are committed to continuing to serve the readers and advertisers of Olbion County in a first-rate manner.”

Victor Parkins, editor and publisher of the Mirror-Exchange, said he's looking forward to adding the newspapers to their growing family of publications.

“Scarlet and I have known the Critchlow family for a long, long time. We grew up watching our newspapers printed on their presses, so we feel like we've come full circle. We're excited about the opportunities ahead of us and working with these talented journalists.”

# Let public opinion, not SCOTUS, curb social media companies

The U.S. Supreme Court will now step into the national debate about regulating social media, a move that might be popular but is the wrong one at the wrong time – and maybe for all time.

The court has agreed to hear a challenge to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, seeking to limit – or even remove – a federal law that gives tech companies sweeping immunity from lawsuits over user-generated content and how social media company algorithms surface that posted content.

The justices will consider a lawsuit against Google brought by the family of a man killed in a 2015 terrorist attack in Paris. The family contends that Google, which owns YouTube, was partially responsible because it had allowed the terrorist group to post radicalizing videos that appeared in some users' video feeds, along with the site's algorithm-generated recommendations to other users.

Polls show that we want Big Tech to step up more to battle misinformation and disinformation and to answer critics who say social media outlets favor a particular side on social issues.

But the likely outcome from



## PERSPECTIVE: FREEDOM FORUM

GENE POLICINSKI

any significant weakening of Section 230 and social media First Amendment rights by the high court will be equally significant limits on our free speech and free press rights. What company would open its electronic turf to virtually anyone, knowing that a single post among millions each day from users could bring an expensive lawsuit?

Better that we hold those companies accountable in the courts of public opinion and the commercial marketplace than in courts of law.

When we exercise our own free speech rights, we step up as the kind of engaged citizens envisioned by the founders when they enacted such strong bulwarks around our core freedoms.

Deal with dissatisfaction by not using Facebook or Twitter or Google or Truth Social, for that

matter. If you don't like how a platform deals with abusive posts or blatant propaganda or fails to act on deliberate misinformation, step up and support alternatives or start-up competitors.

Demand that tech companies find better ways to implement transparent standards that they – not the government – create to apply to the massive amounts of posts they receive. Delete your account if the online operation won't be transparent about how their algorithms or human moderators make decisions about what, when and who to suspend or block.

These First Amendment-friendly approaches don't require government intrusion into the speech and press rights of private companies.

If the high court does decide to amend Section 230, let's hope it tweaks rather than trashes. Some options for limited change could include allowing liability for intentional editorial decisions by Big Tech, like failing to act on clearly dangerous misinformation regarding public health or safety.

Decisions to permit or failure to prevent or remove immediately abominations such as live or

recorded beatings, sexual assaults or salacious posts of thrill killings might be made subject to civil lawsuits over "intentional infliction of emotional distress" by family members or even the public at large.

Still, even such relatively limited changes seem at odds with the core principle that private companies, like individuals, have First Amendment rights.

Social media and new technologies provide us with unprecedented ways to connect with others, to make our individual opinions known even when those views are controversial or even offensive to some, and to participate in the self-governance essential to our democratic republic.

Sweeping aside broad protections for Big Tech in the name of fairness or transparency may seem like a good way to correct some social media "wrongs," but not if it ushers in an era of new limitations or lost opportunities for our individual rights.

*Gene Policinski is a senior fellow for the First Amendment at the Freedom Forum. He can be reached at [gpolicinski@freedomforum.org](mailto:gpolicinski@freedomforum.org).*

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

### October 2022

- 6-8: 2022 National Newspaper Association (NNA) Convention, Hyatt Regency, San Francisco, Cal..
- 12-14: E&P and 360 Media Alliance News Media Business Summit, Sheraton Hotel Downtown, Harrisburg, Pa.
- 14-15: America's Newspapers Family and Independent Owners Conference, The Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, La., held in conjunction with the event listed directly below.
- 16-18: America's Newspapers Annual Meeting and Senior Leadership Conference, The Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, La.
- 20: Virtual 2022 Revenue Summit and Announcement of Ideas Contest Awards. Kelly Wirges, presentation speaker. More details to follow via email.
- 26-30: Fall National College Media Association Convention in conjunction with Associated Collegiate Press, Grand Hyatt Washington, Washington D.C.

### November 2022

- 3: The TPA Board of Directors will meet via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Central Time/ 10:00 a.m. Eastern. All TPA members are invited to attend this virtual meeting. Contact Robyn Gentile for the Zoom link

### April 2023

- 2-4: 2023 News Industry Mega-Conference presented by America's Newspapers, Hilton Anatole, Dallas, Tex.
- 26-28: Niche Media Conference, "100% focused on niche media publishing and revenue growth," Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, La.

### June 2023

- 21-25: 2023 Conference for The International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors. University of Nevada, Reno, Nev.

## NEWS & MOVES

### Parade magazine to cease print publication

The publisher of Parade magazine, which is carried in newspapers across the country, to include the Kingsport Times-News and Johnson City Press on Sundays, has announced that it will discontinue its print product of Parade as of the Nov. 6 edition.

"We will, though, continue to deliver the same premium content experience of Parade in an e-edition format to our newspaper partners," said Kevin Craig, senior vice president of Newspaper Relations for The Arena Group, publisher of Parade.

The Press and the Times-News will continue delivering the print edition through the last issue on Nov. 6, and then continue to publish Parade for years to come with its e-edition.

"This news is unfortunate for our print customers, but it comes



Thomason

as little surprise," said Rick Thomason, publisher of both the Times-News and the Press. "We live in an increasingly digital world and have come to expect these

kinds of shifts from our partners. They see the future and know, as we do, that their online reach is far greater now than in print. For them and for us the goal is to deliver our journalism to as many people as we can through whatever avenues we can."

*Kingsport Times-News  
Sept. 25, 2022*

### Shirley Jones retires from Sun after 48 years

Very few people can say they worked 48 years before retirement.



S. Jones

Fewer can say they worked that long at the same workplace and even fewer in the same position. Shirley Jones can say all three.

Jones retired in August after working 48 years in the Circulation Department of The Greeneville Sun.

She started her work as a circulation assistant in billing not long after graduating as Shirley Harrison from North Greene High School.

"The first adding machine they gave me, you would not believe it," she said. "It came over on the ark." She explained that the antiquated machine lacked a multiplication function but had a lever to move the decimal place when calculating.

Fast forward almost 50 years, and Jones has two computer screens to

increase efficiency, she said.

Whether she's dealing with customers in person or on the phone, Jones said helping people has been one of the favorite things about her job.

"I've always tried to treat them like I like to be treated," she said. In fact, that's the advice she gives to anyone who is working toward retirement, along with saying a lot of prayers.

Gregg Jones, retired co-publisher of The Sun, said, "Since the first day she joined the staff of The Greeneville Sun, Shirley Jones, then Harrison, has made significant contributions. Over multiple headache-inducing technology changes, Shirley stoically learned what she needed to learn, then uncomplainingly helped her colleagues do the same."

*The Greeneville Sun  
Aug. 22, 2022*

# Tell them 'why' – and sell more in the process

Like some other kids, I learned how to drive before taking the drivers' education class in high school. My father took me to the school's football stadium on weekends when the expansive parking lot was empty. The car was an old station wagon with a manual shift on the steering column. "Once you learn how to drive a manual shift, an automatic transmission will be a piece of cake," he said.

Dad was a great teacher. After he methodically explained the gas pedal, the brake, the clutch and other essentials, he assured me that it was okay to make mistakes, because I couldn't damage anything around us. Shifting gears was the number one topic. He carefully demonstrated the correct



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JOHN FOUST

way to move from neutral to first, then let me try it. "Let the clutch out slowly," he said, "because the car will lurch and stall if you do it too quickly. Do it slowly and the car will ease into gear." At first, I struggled so much with that clutch that the poor station wagon jumped around like a bucking bronco. But after a while, I developed a feel for it – and the car actually behaved.

One thing that made Dad such

an effective communicator was that he told me why certain things should be done. He was a mechanical engineer who dealt with whys all the time. When the car bucked, I knew why, because he had told me why. When I shifted smoothly, I knew why, because he had explained it. And when I eventually drove on the road, I had more confidence than I would have had without his patient instruction.

One of the most important techniques in communication – especially in persuasive communication – is to tell people "why." Steven, an ad manager who has observed countless sales presentations, told me, "Salespeople have a tendency to do a lot of telling, but not much explaining. It's import-

ant to realize that we all have a need to know why we are being told something or asked to do something. Even children need to know why. They are champions of 'why' questions."

Steven is right. Give prospects reasons why. It helps to use a simple bridge like "because" or "the reason I say that is" or "this will provide you with." For example:

1) "Let's take a look at our publication's readership figures. This will show you how many prospective print and online customers you can reach with us."

2) "Here's a comparison between a couple of ads in the last campaign you ran and a couple from the new campaign we've been discussing. We're taking a look at these togeth-

er, because this will help us see how the new ads build on the brand image you've established."

3) "Let's set an appointment to talk next Tuesday, after the first ad runs. This will give us a chance to make any needed tweaks to the offer."

Without a doubt, telling prospects why is a good way to keep your sales presentations in gear.

*Copyright 2022 by John Foust. All rights reserved. John Foust has conducted training programs for thousands of newspaper advertising professionals. Many ad departments are using his training videos to save time and get quick results from in-house training. E-mail for information: john@johnfoust.com*

## NEWS & MOVES from Page 3

### Hughes joins P-I as graphic designer

Hannah Hughes, a Henry County native and 2018 graduate of Henry County High School, is The Paris Post-Intelligencer's new graphic designer.

Her new duties call on her to help lay out the design of each edition of the paper, as well as assembling individual pages and designing some of its ads.

Hughes joined the paper in June, after moving back to the area from Clarksville with her fiancé, Jonathan Beasley.

Hughes graduated in December 2021 from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies,

with a focus in behavioral and social sciences.

During her freshman year, she happened to take an introductory news writing course at UTM taught by Tomi McCutchen, who was also adviser for The Pacer, the college's student newspaper.

"For one of the projects that we turned in, she had given us a list of information and we were supposed to do a news story out of it," Hughes remembered. "After I submitted it, and she graded it, she got back to me and said 'You really understand how this works. If you want to come work for The Pacer, let me know;'"

She accepted the offer and began working as an editorial assistant the following semester.

"We got very lucky to find Hannah. She's been an asset to our news organization in every way," P-I General Manager Daniel Williams said. "She's been a pro at everything she does, she does it quickly, and my personal favorite, she never makes the same mistake

twice. She's also been willing to help out with things like some writing and photography that are outside the scope of graphic design. We're very blessed to have her here on our team."

*The Paris Post-Intelligencer  
Sept. 14, 2022*

### Waters named editor of Bristol Now

Marina Waters, former business and Scott County reporter for the Kingsport Times News, has been appointed as the editor of Bristol Now, a weekly newspaper and online publication for Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia.

Waters took over her new role on Sept. 19.

Waters, 29, is originally from Kingsport and graduated from Doby's-Bennett High School and then obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee in journalism and electronic media.

Before working at the Times News, Waters worked as a reporter at the Herald & Tribune in Jonesborough for about five years.

"I'm really excited to be the editor of Bristol Now," Waters said. "It's a challenge I've really been looking forward to diving into. I know the rhythm of a weekly paper and what it takes to produce quality, in-depth

content, and when you pair that with top-notch storytelling, you've got content like no one else."

Throughout her career, Waters has held many different positions within Six Rivers Media, which has shown her dedication to journalism and the skills she has to offer.

"Holding multiple positions within our company, Marina has demonstrated a passion for journalism, a willingness to tackle new challenges and the focus that will be needed to excel as the new editor of Bristol Now," said Rick Thomason, Six Rivers Media president and publisher of the Kingsport Times News."

*Kingsport Times-News  
Sept. 28, 2022*

### Tennessean earns online journalism award

The Tennessean has been honored with its second major award this year, winning the Online News Association's Excellence in Newsletters prize for the Black and Latino Tennessee Voices newsletters.

Led by Opinion and Engagement director David Plazas and Opinion and Engagement columnists LeBron Hill and Kyra Watts, the newsletters aim to tell stories for and with communities of color in Nashville.

"We're thrilled to see our work to better connect and to better serve all of Nashville receive international acclaim. But we know we have much work yet to do and we are determined to do it," said Michael



Anastasi

A. Anastasi, editor and vice president of The Tennessean.

"I am so proud of our journalists, their deep dedication to Nashville and the culture of excellence that permeates the

newsroom."

The Black Tennessee Voices newsletter launched in May 2021, with the Latino Tennessee Voices newsletter following shortly after in September 2021.

This win comes after The Tennessean earned the prestigious Scripps Howard Award for Excellence in Coverage of Breaking News for reporting on the floods in Waverly.

*The Tennessean, Nashville  
Sept. 27, 2022*

### Stewart-Houston Times ceases publication

The last publication of The Stewart-Houston Times, Dover, was on Monday, Sept. 13. Readers were advised to visit theleafchronicle.com for their continued access to community news. The Times was established in 1888.

In ceasing publication of the paper, management put out a notice saying, "It's been a good run and we'll miss the weekly distribution."

*Submitted  
Sept. 28, 2022*

	<b>Tennessee Press Service Advertising Placement Snapshot</b>	
	<b>ROP:</b> <b>August 2022</b> <b>Year* as of Aug. 31</b>	<b>Networks:</b> <b>\$72,456</b> <b>\$960,349</b>
	<b>\$14,834</b> <b>\$172,761</b>	
<small>* The TPS Fiscal Year runs Dec. 1 through Nov. 30</small>		

# Keep eye out for 11th-hour election volleys

Election Day is only weeks away. The hyper partisanship of races at all levels – from local to state to federal – demands that editors pay extra attention to press releases and letters to the editor. The editing and delete buttons on your keyboard are likely to get an extra workout.

Navigating exchanges among candidates, as well as their supporters and detractors, is always a delicate and often exhausting task as editors strive for fairness and consistency in election reports.

The stakes are ramped up even higher in the final weeks as candidates and their camps seek to level charges at the last possible moment in press releases and letters to augment – or maybe even replace – advertising campaigns. Newsrooms should have the discussion and be prepared. Set the ground rules if you have not already done so, and publicize the guidelines.

The rules of fair play should be standard practice in press releases. Candidates often weigh in on issues at the forefront of a campaign. If you deem a release worthy of publication, it's simply sound journalism to get an opponent's take on an issue as well. It should be mandatory to seek comment if the release references and takes issue with an opponent's stance.

Newsrooms are most likely to see 11th-hour charges volleyed through letters to the editor. Here are some guidelines to consider.

First and foremost, set two deadlines for letters. Set one deadline for letters that raise no new issues, the final deadline for all elections let-



## COMMUNITY NEWSROOM SUCCESS

JIM PUMARLO

ters. Second, set an earlier deadline for letters that raise new issues. This gives opponents an opportunity to respond, if they so wish.

If a letter misses the deadline, consider these alternatives:

If you believe the letter is baseless, feel free to reject it outright. You've publicized your guidelines and deadlines, so stand your ground. Don't underestimate campaign strategy. The individuals calling the shots in the back room often sit on something for weeks and wait to spring it in the final days, hoping an opponent doesn't have time to respond.

However, if you believe a letter has merit, consider these two options:

- Turn the letter into a news story, giving both candidates a chance to comment. You'll first need to have a conversation with the candidates, explaining your rationale. You'll want to explain to readers as well within the story or with an editor's note.

- As an alternative, publish the letter but also give the opposing candidate an opportunity to respond with a letter in the same edition. As always, explain the how's and why's behind your deci-

sion with an editor's note. The circumstances may warrant a longer explanatory column to readers.

Most important, publicize the guidelines and deadlines for letters early and often. That is your best offense to combat the shenanigans of political operatives.

I well remember the days when our FAX machine was spitting out election letters as the deadlines neared. A local office was headquarters for one political party, and numerous letters were sent from the same machine, each signed by a different individual.

FAX machines always posted the time a document arrived. On one occasion, a letter arrived two minutes after our deadline. I called and informed the "coordinator" that the letter would not be published. He challenged the time on our FAX machine. I politely and firmly informed him that he had known the deadlines for eight weeks.

End of conversation. He never missed another deadline.

*Jim Pumarlo is former editor of the Red Wing (Minn.) Republican Eagle. He writes, speaks and provides training on community newsroom success strategies. He is author of "Journalism Primer: A Guide to Community News Coverage," "Votes and Quotes: A Guide to Outstanding Election Coverage" and "Bad News and Good Judgment: A Guide to Reporting on Sensitive Issues in Small-Town Newspapers." He can be reached at [www.pumarlo.com](http://www.pumarlo.com) and welcomes comments and questions at [jim@pumarlo.com](mailto:jim@pumarlo.com)*

## ELVIS from Page 2

copies of certain dispatch traffic, dubbing snippets onto cassette tapes, such as for training.

He has posted a snippet of his recording on his photography website. It's very short, about 15 seconds, and doesn't have the full initial call from Esposito or the second call, which Chiozza said he remembered. Elvis was dead when emergency responders got to Graceland, maybe dead for hours, but many mistruths were seeded that day.

The medical examiner announced to the press, even before an autopsy was finished and toxicology reports were back, that Elvis' death was due to "cardiac arrhythmia" and drugs played no role.

Later, the public learned that Elvis had been heavily addicted to drugs, aided by personal physicians who liberally prescribed them. Years later, there seems no doubt that drugs played a role.

Would the more comprehensive dispatch communications from that day tell us something we don't know? Would it add a fact, subtract a piece of misinformation?

I don't know. I'm not an expert on Elvis. But the recording was a government record that should have been retained for its historical value. Copies of the recording could still be retrieved by government as a government record depending on the circumstances or purpose of the copying.

Davy Crockett's unexecuted

marriage license was returned after an order by the court. It is now in a vault in the Jefferson County Clerk's office. Occasionally, the clerk's office said, people will ask to see it. An appointment is made and the now-framed certificate is brought out for examination.

The emergency communications on the Elvis call deserve at least equal treatment. Our government should have an interest in preserving matters of fact — especially in this context — and Memphis government has a unique opportunity and responsibility to save a recording that is part of its city history.

*Deborah Fisher is executive director of Tennessee Coalition for Open Government.*

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# 2022 TPA State Press Contests Awards Luncheon, Aug. 26

See more TPA State Press Contests Awards Luncheon photos on pages 7, 12.



Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Carrie Castille, senior vice chancellor and senior vice president at the UT Institute of Agriculture, was the presenter of first-place plaques at the luncheon, this one going to Robby O'Daniel, The LaFollette Press, for Best Investigative Reporting in Group I.



Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Carrie Castille, a Senior VP at UTIA, spoke briefly at the TPA State Press Contests Awards Luncheon before presenting first-place plaques to the winners.



Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Tim Siniard, Cleveland Daily Banner, receives the Best Sports Writing plaque for first place in Group III on behalf of the Banner's Joe Cannon.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Ellen Gould, Main Street Media, and Ivan Aronin, also of Main Street Media, were among a large contingent of the company's staffers on hand at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Cheryl Duncan, Crossville Chronicle, was among many dozens of staffers from TPA member newspapers who attended the TPA State Press Contests Awards Luncheon on Aug. 26.

## The Tennessee Press Association thanks the following:

### The University of Tennessee System

We are grateful for the excellent relationship that has existed for 82 years. Since 1940, the University of Tennessee has participated in the implementation of the UT-TPA State Press Contests and has provided plaques and certificates and assisted in various other facets of the awards event.

We especially thank Charles Primm, UT System Division of Communications and Marketing, and staff for work that brings you the awards presentation, plaques and certificates each year.

We also thank Alison Gerber, Contests Committee chairman and members of the 2021-22 TPA Contests Committee for their contributions, guidance and support.

And we thank each member who judged for the Hoosier State Press Association's contest this year! The contests are able to continue because of your support.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Jack McNeely, Cleveland Daily Banner, and TPA president, prepares to give his opening remarks at the TPA State Press Contests Awards Luncheon held Aug. 26 at Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville.



Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Lisa Whaley (right), The Erwin Record, receives her first-place plaque for winning in the Group I category for Best Single Editorial. About 90 staffers of TPA-membership newspapers attended the luncheon.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Zoe Haggard and David Melson, both of the Shelbyville Times-Gazette. Each of them had a hand in multiple award-winning entries in the TPA State Press Contests.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Tena Lee and Sherry Mitchell, who both work for Main Street Media's Hendersonville Standard, have been to many such TPA awards ceremonies and always enjoy coming back.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Scott Whaley, Magic Valley Publishing, Henderson, met up with Danny Wade, The Humboldt Chronicle, perhaps to compare notes and exchange tips and tricks of the trade.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Amy Watson, The Gazette, Trenton, and Scarlet Elliott, The Mirror-Exchange, Milan, enjoyed the awards luncheon and the chance to meet and talk with peers from across the state.



Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Andrew Nelles, The Tennessean, Nashville, stood in for Tennessean teammate George Walker IV in accepting the plaque for Group V Best Sports Photograph.



Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Kendall Patterson, Chester County Independent, Henderson, accepts his first-place plaque from UTIA's Carrie Castille for Best Sports Photograph in Group I.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

David Laprad, Hamilton County Herald, Chattanooga, and Lyle Graves, The Nashville Ledger and The Knoxville Ledger. The Nashville Ledger won Group III's General Excellence honors.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Amanda Loshbaugh and Megan Reagan, Herald-Citizen, Cookeville. Loshbaugh was part of the H-C's win for Make-up & Appearance; Reagan got 2nd place for Best Feature Photograph.



Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Echo Day, The Leader, Covington, has walked across ballrooms many times at TPA State Press Contests to accept awards, this time for Best Personal Column in Group II.

# NLRB General Counsel continues lawless approach, and other news about the workplace

In a case involving a veterinary hospital (Pathway Vet Alliance), NLRB General Counsel Abruzzo is seeking a remedy in an unfair labor practice case requiring the Employer to pay employees the wage and benefits they could have earned had a contract been reached with the union. General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo suggests that the Board utilize “comparator” contracts to calculate lost wages. This certainly would inject a degree of speculation.

Of course, the whole problem with this remedy idea is that it is illegal under U.S. Supreme Court precedent. Paragraph Section 8(d) of the National Labor Relations Act that prohibits the Board from compelling parties to agree to specific contract terms. This remedy sought by General Counsel Abruzzo in effect compels the parties to agree to a specific wage term.

In H.K. Porter, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that any such remedy in a refusal to bargain case would amount to compelling contractual agreement in contravention of Section 8(d). Merely seeking this remedy is lawless in view of the H.K. Porter case. The current Board majority is certainly pro-union and may be receptive to the General Counsel’s argument. We can expect this issue to be appealed to the United States Court of Appeals.

## Employers cannot ban union insignia

On August 29, 2022, the NLRB issued a precedent shifting decision.



## LEGAL UPDATE

L. MICHAEL ZINSER

The Board ruled it was unlawful for Tesla to prohibit employees from wearing shirts bearing the union insignia. This reversed a 2019 decision, Walmart Stores Inc. In Walmart Stores, Inc., the Board adopted a balancing test in which it considered the nature and extent of the potential impact on NLRA rights and legitimate Employer justifications associated with the rule.

The new case goes back to old precedent ruling that when an Employer interferes in any way with its employees right to display the union insignia, the Employer must prove “special circumstances” that justifies interference. In this new case, the Board ruled that Tesla’s dress code policy was presumptively unlawful and that Tesla has the burden to establish special circumstances. Tesla’s policy allowed production employees to wear only black shirts with the Tesla logo or, on occasion, all black shirts. The Board said that interfered with the employees’ rights. Tesla argued that its policy aimed to prevent employees’ clothing or apparel from damaging or mutilating its vehicles. Tesla provided testimony that a raised insignia emblem caused mutilation to a vehicle.

The Board ruled that Tesla did not

prove “special circumstances” that justified prohibiting production employees from wearing insignia.

## NLRB Enters Memorandums of Understanding with FTC and DOJ

In its continuing attack on Independent Contractors and the so-called Gig Economy, the NLRB has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Trade Commission. The NLRB and the FTC have identified mutual areas of interest such as the misclassification of workers and the Gig Economy, imposition of restrictive non-compete and non-disclosure agreements, and the ability of workers to act collectively. The MOU provides for and encourages inter-agency enforcement through “information sharing, cross agency training, and outreach in other areas of common regulatory interest.”

The NLRB has also entered into a separate MOU with the Department of Justice Anti-Trust Division. The MOU with the DOJ contemplates referrals between the agencies and states that “following a referral from the NLRB, the Anti-Trust Division will determine whether to open a civil or criminal investigation into the conduct.” The MOU also addresses inter-agency cooperation with respect to information sharing, training, education, and outreach, consultation and coordinated enforcement programs.

## Vulgar, nasty language may be protected

The Employer tightened up its overtime system. Employees who wanted to work overtime had to sign up a week in advance; if they failed to show up as scheduled, they were subject to disciplinary action. The prior policy did not involve any discipline if the employee did not show up. The employees hated the new system; the union representing them filed an unfair labor practice charge against the employer.

The employees began to boycott overtime. The Company then began to assign mandatory overtime. Many employees began to refer to the overtime sign-up sheet as “the whore board.” Even supervisors used the term.

Six months into the use of the hated sign-up sheet, one employee wrote “whore board” on the top of each page of the sign-up sheet. The employee admitted doing this and he was ultimately fired. The employee no doubt did this in an attempt to intimidate employees from signing up.

The NLRB ruled the discharge was unlawful; the U.S. Court of Appeals of the D.C. Circuit agreed. Why? Because there was no evidence that the Employer had ever before enforced its policy against the use of vulgar language or harassment. The Court stated:

The Employer could have avoided NLRA liability by showing that it had a history of enforcing laws and policies against discrimination and harassment in a consistent manner, or by showing that it was turning over a new leaf in

that regard, but it showed neither.

## Bill introduced to ban Right to Work laws

On September 8, 2022, Senator Elizabeth Warren introduced a bill that would ban Right-to-Work laws. Twenty-seven states currently have Right-to-Work laws, with Kentucky being the most recent state to pass such legislation.

Right-To-Work laws preserve individual employee freedom of choice. The freedom preserved is the right to freely choose whether or not to join and/or pay dues to a labor union. In a right to work state, it is illegal for a union to propose, in collective bargaining, a clause that requires all employees to join and pay dues to a union. This is illegal in a right to work state. In non-right to work states, unions may propose language that requires all employees to join and pay dues. An Employer is not obligated to agree to such a proposal. It is a subject of bargaining in non-right to work states.

It is highly unlikely such a bill could pass at this point.

According to a recent study, Right-to-Work states added 1.3 million jobs since the start of the pandemic, while non-Right-to-Work states lost 1.1 million jobs. non-Right-to-Work states.

*L. Michael Zinser of Gallatin, Tenn., represents employers on a nationwide basis in the areas of labor and employment. He can be reached at 615.244.9700 and mzins@zinslaw.com.*

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MULTIMEDIA ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

The Chattanooga Times Free Press is looking for a motivated, outgoing, and confident Multimedia Account Executive to join our growing team and drive sales for our business. As a Multimedia Account Executive, you will act as a liaison between our business and the customer in order to establish trust, increase product solutions knowledge, and drive more sales for our company through helping clients with their needs. One to three years of experience working in a sales environment of customer service/capacity is preferred but not required. We offer an extensive portfolio of digital and traditional product platforms to work with, an environment of team productivity, and offer competitive compensation plus benefits in a fun, supportive atmosphere. EOE. Drug-free workplace. Send resumes to sembry@timesfreepress.com

**Post your newspaper’s job openings at  
www.tnpress.com.**

Contact Robyn Gentile for more information at [rgentile@tnpress.com](mailto:rgentile@tnpress.com)

## Free webinars for TPA members

**Nov. 3**  
*Trust in Truth*

**Nov. 17**  
*Winning the Talent War*

*Can't make the date? Use the TPA code for the archived version.*

Register at [www.OnlineMediaCampus.com](http://www.OnlineMediaCampus.com).

Contact [rgentile@tnpress.com](mailto:rgentile@tnpress.com) for the TPA coupon code.

*Archived webinars available*

### BANNER from Page 1

for two years. The newspaper resumed operations in 1865 when McNelley was released.

Throughout those years, Cleveland Newspapers has owned and operated daily newspapers in 10

states.

Paxton Media Group is a family-owned media company managed by fourth-and fifth-generation Paxton family members. The company owns more than 100 newspapers across the Midwest and Southeast.

### Calling for Directory Corrections

Send your corrections for the 2023 directory to [rgentile@tnpress.com](mailto:rgentile@tnpress.com).

address • contact info • staff • page dimensions  
• column width • monthly unique visitors • frequency

**Deadline: November 15**

Voices and images in recognition of National Newspaper Week, Oct. 2-8:

# Newspapers: Forget the 'paper,' embrace the 'news'

*Editor's note: Content on this page and page 10 was created as part of a "National Newspaper Week" package made available to newspapers. Thanks to those who contributed!*

There was a period in the late '60s when the Beach Boys, desperate for a hipper identity, reportedly considered shortening their name to "Beach."

Of course, the Backstreet Boys may perform into their '80s, but there's no question that a dated name can take a toll.

Take the newspaper. With an emphasis on "paper," it sounds very retro. And of course, it is. The first newspaper was published in this country in 1690. As early as the 18th century, American newspapers flourished with the same core elements we still see in the 20th century: ink on paper reporting events in the local community.

"National Newspaper Week" (recognized as Oct. 2-8 this year) sets aside a few days to celebrate one of the most successful consumer products of all time. What else has sold for pennies for much of three centuries, with a majority of the public making use of it?



## NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK

KEN PAULSON

What other industry has spent centuries challenging people in power and working daily to protect the people who are not?

What other business was top of mind for that first generation of Americans when they decided they needed protection from potential governmental abuse, ensuring freedom of the press with the ratification of the Bill of Rights?

The scope of newspaper reporting worldwide remains astonishing. Yes, broadcast and cable networks, magazines, large news websites, local television and radio all do some original reporting. But that coverage pales by comparison to what is generated by newspaper newsrooms.

The majority of news you see reported, cited or transformed into a meme began in a newspaper newsroom. Major newspapers like

The New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal and USA Today share coverage globally, but thousands of smaller papers do the same by sharing their news articles with the world via the Associated Press.

Skeptical? I suggest that you pull out your phone or – for irony's sake – a piece of paper, and watch tonight's local TV newscast. Tune into a local radio station for its five minutes of news. Tally the total number of stories and see how many actually involve reporting by the station's newsroom. How many stories just sound like they were pulled from a newspaper? They may well have been. Then hop onto your Facebook or Twitter feed and see how many posts link to newspaper articles. If they link to other media, click to see where those outlets got their information.

Why are other media so dependent on newspapers? Because they always have been. Veteran broadcast journalists will tell you that newspapers have long acted as a tip sheet. Find an interesting local story in the paper and then try to tell the story in a more com-

elling way with video and audio. Even newsrooms that have faced staffing reductions typically still have twice the resources of their broadcast rivals.

So why all this chest-beating on behalf of newspapers? It's all about ensuring the survival of something that has served society so well for so long.

There's been a dramatic shift in this country in the 21st century. Advances in digital technology have dramatically expanded the ways news can be delivered, and younger generations prefer screens to paper. No surprise there. Technical progress is transformative.

What's of more concern, though, is a cultural shift. In a deeply polarized nation, many seem unable or unwilling to make a distinction between the biased pundits of cable TV and their neighbors who publish their local paper. Many can recite all the details of America's outrage of the moment, but have no idea what their local city council did last week – and seemingly don't care.

Newspapers can survive – and have survived – most everything

thrown at them over a span of centuries. Digital delivery can still serve our communities, long after print papers are gone. Newspapers cannot, however, survive lack of interest in local news and events.

Have we come to the point where we no longer care about our local tax rate, schools, employment, hospitals and businesses? Surely we recognize that MSNBC won't be at our school board meeting and that Fox News won't be monitoring our county commission. Do we understand that if we don't support newspapers now, there will be no one keeping an eye on any local government body?

The name "newspapers" may be clouding our vision. Once the "papers" are gone, we will still need the news.

Newspapers need our support and subscriptions. Their medium may be outdated, but their mission is not.

*Ken Paulson is the director of the non-partisan Free Speech Center at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tenn. (www.freespeech.center)*

# Social media may be fun, but for the facts we need newspapers

I love social media.

They keep me in touch with dozens of friends, whom I might otherwise have contact with just every few years, or every few decades.

They let me share articles that I think bring greater understanding of a subject, usually with a comment of my own, and enjoy similar sharing by others.

They let me share my own writing, reaching a wider audience than I did when I worked for newspapers, and be part of national, even international, conversations.

I hate social media.

They have become the default sources of information for most Americans, and major sources of misinformation – even disinformation – that polarizes the country



## NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK

AL CROSS

and drives us into media echo chambers.

They have added to the confusion between fact and opinion, and to our natural desire for information that confirms what we believe, rather than information that may challenge those beliefs.

They have led Americans to spend more time online in virtual communities instead of the geographic communities where we live, pay taxes and elect local leaders.

## Love-hate

My love-hate relationship with social media stems mainly from my being a journalist who believes that freedom of information is essential to our democratic republic, and who has done most of my journalism for newspapers – which are the main fact-finders in our society.

Newspapers are finding it more difficult to perform that essential function, mainly because much of their audience and more of their advertisers now prefer social media.

Newspapers have as many readers as they ever did, but the audience is mainly online, and reached through social-media posts that bring them no income. There's a bill in Congress to address that, called the Journalism Preservation Act, but what news media also



need are more citizens who appreciate and support their work.

Newspapers are not only the main fact-finders for citizens; they are also institutions that speak truth to power and hold it accountable. That's why our founders put the First Amendment into the

Constitution, to guarantee freedom of speech, press, petition, assembly and religion.

Freedom of the press demands certain responsibilities of those who exercise it. Too many citizens don't realize that journalists have

# To paywall or not? Young readers provide the answer

A few years ago, while preparing to teach a copy editing course for the first time, I stumbled across a hidden gem in The New York Times digital edition: Copy Edit This!, an interactive quiz that tests readers on grammar and word usage errors from recent Times articles.

The Times's standards editor catches the errors and then explains why they are wrong. Here is an example from installment No. 1: "The trial has suggested that corruption in Mexico is as bad, if not worse, than many thought." The problem, according to Editor Philip B. Corbett is that "as bad" needs another "as," which readers learn as they click on a word in the quiz to see what's wrong with it. To be correct, it should read "as bad as."

In my class, which I teach online, I split the students into copy desks to work together on a different quiz each week. It is a feature of the course they seem generally to like.

But a few weeks ago, a student reached out to let me know that they could not access the quiz through our college's library database, which they had been able to do in the past. It turns out that we no longer offer students access to the digital version of the New York Times. The library asked for it in its budget but was denied because Columbia College Chicago, like many



## LOCAL MATTERS

JACKIE SPINNER

other tuition-dependent institutions in higher education, is facing a mounting deficit, in part, resulting from declining enrollment.

I reached out immediately to my journalism faculty colleagues, irate that we had lost access to the copy editing quiz and all of the multimedia elements that are part of the digital edition of the Times. I also implored my students to purchase a subscription, which for them, at a student discount, would amount to one fancy coffee drink per month. Few of them agreed, after the fact, so without access, I eliminated the quiz from the course.

Although this anecdote says much about the state of journalism education, as part of higher education in general, it really for me is illustrative of the larger problem we face within our industry. It is incredibly difficult to get people to pay for news, for quality features, even as we continue to invest in them. I find it telling, and sobering, that we cannot even convince future journalists to pay as consumers, even as they expect to

be fairly compensated to produce news after they graduate.

In the United States, only 21 percent of respondents to the 2021 Reuters Institute Digital News report paid for news.

In May, the Nieman Lab looked at why that was, drawing on a scholarly article by Danish researcher Tim Groot Kormelink. The analysis is interesting, noting factors such as cost and whether or not they actually follow up after subscribing, but it didn't offer clearly defined resolution. There were no lightbulbs.

But other studies have suggested that young readers may be willing to pay for a news subscription if the price is lower.

Many news outlets use deals to lure readers and then sock them with a price increase. This increase can often be negotiated down by calling and complaining. But really, that is not a relationship built on trust.

Gateway Journalism Review is not behind a paywall, and we are no longer sharing content in our digital newsletter that requires a subscription to a particular news outlet. I fundamentally believe that news cannot be behind a paywall. Many people simply will move on. We can lament that we did this to ourselves in the early days of delivering content online. We can lament that we still have

not figured out a profitable model to replace the classified ads that kept us afloat. We can continue to charge a premium to some readers willing or with the means to pay, further dividing our communities between the informed and the uninformed.

The attraction of nonprofit news organizations is that they don't have to figure this out except that they also have to figure this out. Whether through donations, grant funding or private investment, it still costs to produce quality news, and someone pays when it's not the reader or viewer.

Frankly, I believe that the membership model, or the "freemium model," is the one in which we should embrace. GJR will be launching such a model next year for our print subscribers, following the lead of digital news successes like Axios. The Chicago Sun-Times just this week announced that it was eliminating its digital paywall.

A hard paywall keeps people out. A soft paywall keeps people engaged until they run out of free articles. A membership model allows us to embrace branded and premium content for certain subscribers while continuing to preach the very real ideals about journalism and our vital role in protecting democracy, of being watchdogs of giving people accu-

rate and responsible content that they need.

Public radio through its pledge drives connects journalists with donors, something more news organizations should do. When I get a solicitation from Leila Fadel, the host of Morning Edition for NPR, when I read her personal story and commitment to journalism, I'm instantly connected. Newspapers do that less, preferring to keep journalists away from the unsavory side of the business, even though that side is what actually keeps us in business. We can do more to make the business of news personal for our readers at the most local level.

In the end I can certainly force my students to pay for a New York Times digital subscription but that doesn't change the fundamental problem that they are part of a public that doesn't want to pay for quality news. After all, their college has already sent them a powerful message about the value.

*Jackie Spinner is the editor of Gateway Journalism Review, which published this article on October 6, 2022. It is reprinted here with her permission. A version of this story first appeared in Publisher's Auxiliary, the only national publication serving America's community newspapers. Follow Spinner on Twitter @jackiespinner.*

## CROSS from Page 9

a set of generally agreed-upon ethics, and that journalism is a collective enterprise, with editors and other colleagues who help each other deliver a fair report.

My favorite description of how journalism is supposed to be practiced is in *The Elements of Journalism*, a book by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel. They list 10 elements; here are the first five, which are the most fundamental:

1. Journalism's first obligation is to the truth.
2. Its first loyalty is to citizens.
3. Its essence is a discipline of verification.
4. Its practitioners must maintain an independence from those they cover.
5. It must serve as an independent monitor of power.

The element I quote most often

these days is No. 3, about the discipline of verification. It means that we tell readers how we know something, or we attribute it to someone.

Social media have no discipline and no verification.

And they're mainly about opinions, not facts.

Journalism, especially in newspapers, is mainly about facts, not opinions.

Opinions are the heartbeat of a democracy, but they should be based on facts. And for the facts, we need newspapers.

*Al Cross is professor of journalism and director of the Institute for Rural Journalism at the University of Kentucky. He was a weekly newspaper editor and manager, political writer for the Louisville Courier Journal and president of the Society of Professional Journalists.*

**Blessed  
are those  
who shine  
a light on  
those who  
choose to  
deceive us**



## OBITUARIES

### Stan Johnson

Stanley Thomas Johnson, age 82, went to heaven Wednesday, September 22, 2022.

Stan was retired from the Citizen Tribune, Morristown, and was widely known throughout the Lakeway Area community for his columns, cat columns and other



Johnson

news and feature articles.

But Stan was much more than just an excellent writer.

He was born in St. Louis, Missouri on September 3, 1940. After graduating from

high school, Stan proudly enlisted in the Army, where he served as a paratrooper medic in Mainz, Germany, and was later stationed in Kentucky at Ft. Campbell.

Stan enjoyed a new challenge so he had many different jobs: Paramedic, police officer (graduated at the top of his class), writer at various newspapers throughout the Midwest.

Yet, what Stan loved most was flying. He was a flight instructor for many years, and before that was a crop duster.

Stan lived in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Colorado.

Yet, he ultimately made his home in East Tennessee when he traded an airplane for a piece of property and a cabin in the woods of Bybee in the early 1980s.

"When I arrived in Morristown in 2005, Stan was already a fixture on the opinion pages of the Citizen Tribune and in the newsroom itself," said Tribune Managing Editor John Gullion. "He quickly became an invaluable resource to me personally and professionally. He was a mentor, a sounding board, a counselor and a rock upon which we all could rely. Over the years, he also became a friend.

"For those of us who had the pleasure of working with him, writing with him and occasionally irritating him, Stan's legacy is secure. The lessons he taught, the beliefs he held about writing and journalism and the wisdom he imparted will live on through us and hopefully passed along to other generations of journalists as we share what we learned."

Another passion of Stan's was photography. He was a part owner of Camera Castle in Morristown before he began his career at the Citizen Tribune.

An avid reader and life-long learner, Stan loved history, learning about new things, reading biographies and books about unique events.

Stan was involved with the Morristown Friends of the Library Organization for several years.

Although he loved jumping out of airplanes as well as flying them, Stan also found great pleasure in the small things of life: He loved watching the flowers grow in his little corner of the woods in Bybee.

Especially in his later years, he often sat for hours watching birds, woodpeckers and other wildlife frolic around in his yard.

Stan did not like to draw attention to himself. Therefore, it was his request that there be no funeral when he passed on from this earth.

*Citizen Tribune, Morristown  
Sept. 22, 2022*

### Scott Carter

Former Advocate & Democrat. Sweetwater, Sports Editor Scott Carter passed away Sept. 14, and he was recently remembered by both co-workers and members of the local community.

Carter, 29, was the sports editor here for almost two years, from August of 2017 to April of 2019.



Carter

"I am deeply saddened to learn of Scott's passing at such a young age," former Advocate & Democrat Editor and General Manager Tommy Millsaps said.

"Scott was a true sports fan and was well-versed in all sports, which helped him cover Monroe County's student athletes at a high level."

Millsaps was the editor during Carter's tenure and knew the former sports editor on a personal level as well.

"He was kind and very intelligent and made lots of friends in Monroe County," Millsaps said. "His friends and former co-workers will miss him dearly and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family."

Michael Thomason, a former staff writer with the Advocate & Democrat who is currently a correspondent for the paper, also remembers Carter fondly.

"Scott had an infectious love of sports and Tennessee orange ran in his veins," Thomason said. "He always kept an eye on local teams and highlighted the best. I was

sorry to hear he'd left us at such a young age."

Even though his tenure was relatively short at the paper, Carter also made an impression on people in the community as well. Tellico Plains head football coach Bobby White, who captained Sequoyah's football team at the time, said he got to know Carter well.

"I met Scott when I was the head football coach at Sequoyah. He did a great job of covering our program and was just a super nice guy," White said. "I felt like he was always fair to us and what we did. He did a good job covering us."

White added that while Carter was no longer at The Advocate & Democrat at the time of his death, the two continued their friendship.

"My family hurts for his family during this time. I have kept in contact with Scott since," White said. "You always try to build relationships with those that you work with and around anytime you are a head football coach. Scott was always good to me, and it just breaks my heart for his family and what they are going through during this time."

*The Advocate & Democrat,  
Sweetwater  
Sept. 27, 2022*

## After decades, a News Sentinel reader makes a confession - and amends

**KEENAN THOMAS**  
Knoxville News Sentinel  
September 15, 2022

What causes someone to spend the time, energy and money to seek forgiveness for a minor transgression after half a century?

This question has swirled around the Knoxville newsroom ever since we received an anonymous letter in the mail a couple weeks ago.

The envelope containing the handwritten confession was stuffed with two \$5 bills. The writer apologized profusely for an act they had done decades ago: Putting enough money in a newspaper box to pay for one copy, but reaching in and taking multiple copies.

The theft, though minor, haunted the reader: "I didn't do it often, but still I was wrong to do so. I am so ashamed of myself! Please

forgive me!!"

The note mentioned that newspapers at the time cost about 10 to 15 cents per copy, so they sent \$10 as reimbursement. With that knowledge, we searched through old newspapers to discover that the incident must have occurred sometime in the 1960s or 1970s, or five or six decades ago.

As we pondered the question of lasting guilt, we got in touch with Joseph Stratmann, a University of Tennessee assistant professor of modern philosophy, to get his thoughts.

"The great 18th century sage Immanuel Kant warns us that a human judge cannot see through the inner nature of other human beings (or, for that matter, even of themselves)," Stratmann wrote in an email to Knoxville News.

"But, I think, we may speculate. Despite having faced no outer tribunal for their theft, perhaps

the person in this case was tormented by the inner tribunal of conscience. And perhaps the apology and repayment you received amounted to the restitution ordered by this inner tribunal, which this person (for some unknown reason) felt compelled to finally heed."

Stratmann speculates the action weighed so heavily in the offender's mind that they needed to pay for the papers they stole even though no one else would have known about the transgression.

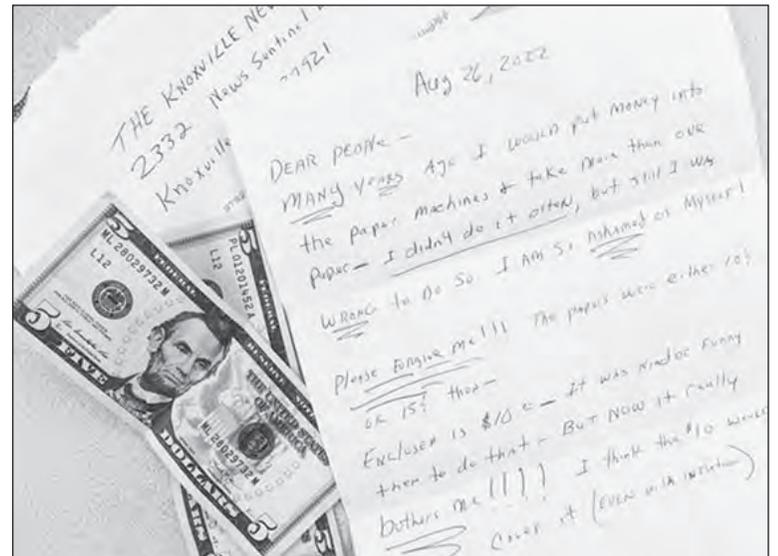
To the writer, consider it water under the bridge. "We forgive you," said Joel Christopher, Knoxville News editor. "Let this lift from your conscience."

We put the money to good use by donating it to the News Sentinel Charities Empty Stocking Fund, our nonprofit that has provided holiday meals to neighbors in need for more than a century.

The cash will help make a family's holiday a little brighter.

Anyone inspired to donate can make a tax-deductible gift any

time of year at [esfknox.org](http://esfknox.org). Every dollar donated goes to the charitable effort, which is 100% volunteer run.



# 2022 TPA State Press Contests Awards Luncheon Continued from pages 6-7



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Jonathan Roberts, Johnson City Press, and Michaela Brewer. It was a great day for Roberts - he had a hands-on role in four of the Press's six first-place awards.



Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Kyle Murphy, The Tullahoma News, is awarded the first-place plaque by UTIA Senior VP Carrie Castille for his newspaper's winning of Best Local Features in Group III.



Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Mari-Alice Jasper, Fort Campbell Courier, Clarksville, accepts the first-place plaque in Group II for Best Single Feature for her story about a suicide survivor.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Diandra Womble and Dawn Hankins, both of the Shelbyville Times-Gazette, turned out for the TPA SPC Awards Luncheon held in Nashville on Aug. 26.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Jeffrey Russell, of LaFollette Press, was one of about 90 TPA members' staffers who journeyed to Nashville for this year's UT-TPA State Press Contests Awards Luncheon.



Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Holly Viers, Kingsport Times-News, receives the first-place award for Best Single Editorial in Group IV, on behalf of the Times-News' Rick Thomason.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

No TPA State Press Contests awards ceremony would be complete without Charles Primm, University of Tennessee, behind the mic.



Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Chris Vass, Chattanooga Times Free Press, accepts the award for Best News Photograph in Group V on behalf of photographer Troy Stolt.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Gary Estwick, The Tennessean, Nashville, is looking dapper, and his wide smile tells the story: a big day for The Tennessean's hardware haul.



Tony Centonze, for TPA

Mo Charnot, Crossville Chronicle, seems pleased with how things are going for the Chronicle; after all, it would win 13 awards.