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How a Knoxville delivery boy built one of the world's most respected newspapers

JOHN SHEARER
Shopper News/KnoxNews.com
October 4, 2022

Former New York Times publisher Adolph Ochs was considered a journalism trailblazer in wanting to cover news stories objectively at a time when newspapers were known for often being full of partisan political stories.

But there was bit of partisan pride, at least, as several Knoxville citizens recently commemorated the important role Knoxville played in Ochs' newspaper career.

It was here that he got printer's ink in his blood, as they say, so on Thursday, Sept. 29, a historical plaque honoring him was unveiled by the Society of Professional Journalists. It hangs on the northeast corner of Market Square alongside Wall Avenue near the former location of the Knoxville Chronicle, where he worked as a youth.

As Ochs' co-biographer and event participant Alex S. Jones was quoted as saying in the pro-



Submitted

Adolph Ochs went from Knoxville delivery boy to trailblazing New York Times publisher.

clamation read by Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, "While Adolph Ochs' greatest achievement was creating The New York Times, his start was in Knoxville, and he never lost his sense of gratitude and kinship with that city."

The plaque unveiling, which followed a related forum at the East Tennessee History Center the day before, was attended by several dozen people.

The marker had come about through the efforts of longtime News Sentinel journalist and



Saul Young, Knoxville News Sentinel

Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon and journalist Georgiana Vines were among those attending the Sept. 29 unveiling of a plaque commemorating newspaper publisher Adolph Ochs at 36 Market Square in Knoxville.

former SPJ national president Georgiana Vines, as well as some research by Jack Neely of the Knoxville History Project.

Vines said at the dedication that the organization had made prior efforts to recognize Ochs and his

connection to Knoxville, but that was stalled in part because he is already recognized in New York. She said one official even told her to forget the idea, and she jokingly

See **OCHS** Page 2

Murder of Las Vegas reporter brings historic challenge to reporter shield laws

BRIANA ERICKSON
Las Vegas Review-Journal
October 8, 2022

More than 40 years ago, Jeff German put Nevada's shield law to the test. The young investigative reporter was summoned to a Las Vegas courtroom, where a mafia attorney demanded he divulge his sources.

German refused.

Now, his recent slaying has prompted a historic challenge to that same law — and the Las Vegas Review-Journal says the protection of his sources is once again on the line.

German, 69, was found stabbed to death outside his home on Sept. 3. Former Clark County Public Administrator Robert Telles, whose workplace conduct was scrutinized in four of German's stories this year, is accused of killing him.

The longtime Las Vegas journalist had been working from home at the time of his death. Authorities seized German's electronic devices, and now prosecutors and the public defender's office want to search them.

Experts believe German's case is the first where U.S. law enforcement has sought access to a murdered reporter's sensitive work in progress.

The Review-Journal is fighting to prevent that in court, arguing the police seizure violated both state and federal laws that protect journalists.

The stakes are high: The search could expose German's confidential sources, potentially employees of the same agencies conducting the search. Confidential sources in the public administrator's office are also at risk and said they fear being identified could make them a target of Telles if he is released on bail or acquitted.

But attorneys for the Metropolitan Police Department assert the constitutional rights of German's

accused killer "take precedence over any reporter's rights," according to court records.

The case's outcome has the potential to set a dangerous legal precedent and could erode potential sources' trust in journalism nationwide, experts contend.

"It's not just about Jeff's death. It's not just about Jeff's notes. It's about the larger question of ensuring fair, free, honest reporting and protecting democracy," said Mi-Ai Parrish, who teaches media ethics and enterprise at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and

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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 January 2023 issue is December 6, 2022.

5 things to know about the federal FOIA

As a member of the Tennessee Press Association, you're probably familiar with our state's Public Records Act. In fact, you've probably used it before to report important stories about local and state agencies, and the officials who run them.

However, you might be less familiar with the federal equivalent of Tennessee's public records law: the Freedom of Information Act. Enacted in 1966, FOIA allows members of the press and public to obtain records of federal agencies of the executive branch, such as the Justice Department and the Environmental Protection Agency, among many others.

Though it has limitations — the law doesn't apply to records kept by Congress or the courts, for instance — FOIA is a useful tool for learning what the federal government is up to. Even if many of you will rely most frequently on the TPRA, there are plenty of reasons why you should consider filing FOIA requests to gain access to federal data, documents and other records that could help inform your reporting on local issues that matter to communities across Tennessee.



ON
THE
DOCKET

PAUL McADOO

Let's say, for example, that you're reporting on a law enforcement raid on a business that involves both local police officers and FBI agents. You could submit a TPRA request with the local police to find out what prompted the raid, but why not seek records from the federal agency, too? Doing so can increase your chances of getting the information you need — maybe even more quickly.

I could spend thousands of words discussing the ins and outs of FOIA, how it differs from TPRA and the many scenarios in which filing a FOIA request makes sense for reporters covering local and state issues. But for the purposes of this column, let's boil it down to a few essentials. Here are five things you should know to help your FOIA requests:

1. Exemptions

FOIA has nine exemptions that agencies can cite to shield or redact records. Compared to TPRA, which includes more than 500 statutory exemptions, nine seems like a small number. But that number is a bit deceiving because the federal exemptions apply more broadly. FOIA's exemptions protect a wide range of records: everything from trade secrets to medical files. But just citing exemptions is no longer enough for federal agencies to block access to records, thanks to a FOIA reform bill passed in 2016. Under the relatively new "foreseeable harm" standard, an agency can shield information under a discretionary exemption only if it can "reasonably foresee that disclosure would harm an interest protected by the exemption." In other words, the standard imposes a much higher burden for withholding records. So, if an agency merely cites an exemption in refusing to disclose records, you should challenge their decision by asking officials

See **FOIA** Page 4

OCHS from Page 1

told the audience that she does not forget.

While praising the work of Neely in researching Ochs' connections to Knoxville, she admitted pleasure that the project did indeed come to fruition, in part due to the journalistic inspiration it can offer.

"The New York Times still stands as a beacon of journalism at a time when there are rapid changes in the journalism profession," she said.

On a lighter note, she thought it was neat the plaque was placed by a bar, a place where journalists have been historically known to hang out after a day of intense work covering the news. "I think Adolph Ochs would like that," she said.

The building at 36 Market Square is owned by Scott and Bernadette West, who also paid to have the plaque installed.

The marker reads in part, "Ochs began his career in journalism in Knoxville at age 11. He got his first newspaper experience as a paper-boy for the Knoxville Chronicle, whose editor and publisher was Capt. William Rule. The paper

was then on Market Square near Asylum (now Wall Avenue). He worked as a 'printer's devil,' an office boy and apprentice. By age 16, he was an experienced printer."

It goes on to tell of his taking control of the Chattanooga Times in 1878 at 19 and later the then-floundering New York Times in 1896 at 38. While not considered a perfect man or publisher -- for example, his family supported Confederate memorial causes of yesteryear -- he was also considered a trend setter with a book review section and new style of printing photos.

Some of these issues were discussed in a forum titled "What Would Ochs Have to Say" on Sept. 28. Panelists included Neely, UT School of Journalism and Electronic Media professor Dr. Michael Martinez, and Jones, a former Greeneville resident who co-wrote a 1999 history of the Ochs family and The New York Times and won an unrelated Pulitzer Prize in 1987.

During the plaque dedication, Neely mentioned that Ochs was one of several noted authors or publishers with a connection to

Market Square.

"Market Square is the most literary spot in East Tennessee; Adolph Ochs began his career here as part of that," he said. "This is a story that connects Knoxville to the world because The New York Times, the modern New York Times that he created, became a global paper."

Mayor Kincannon said she only more recently learned of Ochs' connections to Knoxville.

"I am a longtime reader of The New York Times," she said. "It's an amazing newspaper and I had no idea at the time that the person who took that newspaper from sort of a small-town edition with many competitors to the paper of record for now for the world was a homegrown talent from right here in Knoxville, Tennessee."

The mayor also called the dedication an homage to the importance of journalism.

"Not all heroes wear capes, and I sometimes have my hard times with journalists, but you hold me accountable, and you hold the city of Knoxville accountable, and you keep the city of Knoxville informed," she said.

Ideas Contest winners strut their creative stuff

Thank you to all who attended our Revenue Summit in October, and congratulations to the Ad/Circ Ideas Contest winners! There were some very creative, moving and beautiful ads submitted for the judges to evaluate. In addition to the contest, members participated in idea exchanges to increase revenues and improve operations in advertising and circulation departments. The TPA's Robyn Gentile will be sharing lists of these ideas with members, so take a serious look at them to see what you can take away and make work in your communities.

It is November . . . wow! As election season hits the final notes, I am reminded that it will not be long before legislators are back at Cordell Hull and we need to be prepared for them. Many of you will have new legislators representing your communities, now is the time to get to know them and be sure they are aware of the service you provide to the community.

The Tennessee Press Association Government Affairs Committee strongly encourages our members to help our readers understand the importance of



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CAROL DANIELS

open meetings, open records and value of required Public Notice to our communities and how we hold government and officials accountable to their duties. The committee asked that TPA have new ads created that members can start running throughout the months of November and December – before legislators gather together in Nashville – that reminds and reinforces the importance of public records, open meetings and published notice of government actions.

TPA worked with the Public Notice Resources Center and several other state associations to design new ads with fresh approaches your newspapers can run. You can see one of these new ads alongside this column. TPA also has developed other ads in the past and you are free to use those, too.

I cannot emphasize how important I have found the relationships between legislators and the publishers and editors of their local newspapers are to ensure that TPA has legislators' attention when we need it. Take the time to personally visit with any new legislators, renew your relationships with incumbents, and don't be shy about how passionate you are about the vital roles our elected officials and our newspapers play in our communities.

It is always better to have that relationship established in case I ask you at some point during session to reach out to your representatives.

Thank you all, and again, congratulations to all the Ad Awards winners.

Carol

Carol Daniels is executive director of Tennessee Press Association.



NEWS & MOVES

Latham hired as Tennessean's First Amendment reporter

Angele Latham is The Tennessean's new First Amendment reporter. She most recently worked at The Jackson Sun as the government and business reporter.

Latham was editor of the Independent Appeal in Selmer, Tennessee following graduation from Middle Tennessee State University with a degree in journalism and visual communication. She is a native of Hickman County.

Why The Tennessean hired a full-time First Amendment beat reporter

The Founding Fathers very clearly foresaw the danger of unchecked authority. Their writings go into great detail about the potential for government corruption, the lure of power, and the need for transparency.

This was a uniquely American



Latham

concept and led to a uniquely American solution: The First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Five freedoms — of religion, speech, press, assembly

and petition — were not to be abridged.

Yet while Americans have consistently shown overwhelming support for the ideas behind the First Amendment, their understanding of how its promises should be interpreted has varied greatly. And they continue to evolve.

Tennessee has long been at the forefront of debate and decision over how these fundamental freedoms should manifest in a pluralistic society.

We're nearing the 100th anniversary of the landmark Scopes Monkey Trial in Tennessee and

some of the same legal, theological and humanistic arguments that took place then are taking place today.

That's why we've decided at The Tennessean that it is the right time to devote a full-time reporter focused on covering First Amendment issues.

The Freedom Forum has a long, distinguished history

Funded by the non-partisan Freedom Forum through Journalism Funding Partners, our reporter will be one of the first in the nation to be so dedicated, allowing us to consistently focus more attention and develop sophisticated storytelling around these critical freedoms.

What's noteworthy is our approach. Some news organizations might cover the First Amendment as related to a press issue with a journalist whose beat is the media, or a question over religious freedom with a

legal or religion reporter.

By bringing the topic under a single journalist, we'll develop the deep sourcing, expertise and focus needed to explore these complex issues and keep them at the forefront of community discussion.

And while we will be mainly covering the issues of Tennessee, we'll extend our reach more broadly throughout the South and nationally as developments dictate.

The Freedom Forum has a long history in Tennessee, through John Seigenthaler and other past editors of The Tennessean, and through our parent company Gannett. The John Seigenthaler Center opened on the campus of Vanderbilt University more than 30 years ago. With such a rich legacy, it makes even more sense for The Tennessean to take this bold step.

See **NEWS & MOVES** Page 4

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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.

January 2023

Jan. 31-Feb. 2: CapCon2023, "Rebuilding trust in an age of disinformation," Sacramento, Calif. Keynote speaker: former U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr.

March 2023

2-5: Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) NICAR2023 (National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting), Renaissance Nashville Hotel, Nashville, Tenn.

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.

May 2023

15-19: 93rd Annual International News Media Association (INMA) World Congress of News Media, New York, NY.

June 2023

21-25: 2023 Conference for The International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors (ISWNE), University of Nevada, Reno, Nev.
22-24: 2023 NFPW (National Federation of Press Women) Communications Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio.

October 2023

8-10: 2023 America's Newspapers Senior Leadership Conference, the Westin Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

There's power to specificity when it comes to sales and advertising

Motivational speaker and author Zig Ziglar used to ask, "Are you a meaningful specific or a wandering generality?" He related his comment to several areas: long and short-term goal setting, day-to-day activities, and dealings with family members, coworkers and customers.

On closer examination, it's easy to see that his words could apply to just about any area of life or profession. Even advertising.

Why should we aim for "good" results for advertisers, when it's much better to strive for x-percent increase in sales for their businesses? Why should salespeople accept vague answers to key questions, when it's more useful to structure questions to get specifics? And why should we tell someone they did "nice work," when it



AD-LIBS®

JOHN FOUST

would mean a lot more to them to hear specific reasons why they did well? (Besides making them feel good, that kind of sincere praise encourages them to repeat the same successful behavior.)

It's easy to be vague. It's challenging to think – and communicate – in specifics. Yes, specifics are meaningful and generalities wander all over the place, without much significance at all. Generalities have no sticking power.

Let's take a look at two areas

that have a particular need for specificity:

1. Sales presentations. It's natural to open a sales conversation with a general question like, "How's business?" The answer is usually a mundane "fine" or "could always be better." The person asking the questions is in position to steer the dialogue, so it's up to the salesperson to transition away from vague back-and-forth generalities. Get specifics by asking for specifics.

For example, "It's great to hear that business is fine. What's creating those results?" Or, "I understand wanting business to be better. What kinds of things do you think would help?"

See what's happening? This type of response can move the discussion into areas that give the sales-

person something to work with.

2. Ad copy. Every salesperson should have antennae for good and bad copywriting. When an advertiser wants to say "save big" or "large residential lots," alarms should go off. Neither "save big" nor "large residential lots" says anything of value to readers. Exactly how much can people save when they save big? And just how large is a large lot? We'll never know unless the ads tell us.

Think of sports. Wouldn't football fans rather know that their team won, 33-32, than by "a narrow margin?" Isn't a headline like "Jones hits three home runs to set conference record" more descriptive than "Jones had a great game?"

Look for the specifics in these product statements: Save up to

\$300 on your new refrigerator. Reduce your heating and cooling costs by as much as 20 percent. Each home in Lakeside Village will be built on a one-acre lot. Place your order by this weekend and get free delivery and installation.

Vague generality or meaningful specific? When it comes to advertising, this can make the difference between a marketing campaign that works and one that falls flat.

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

FOIA from Page 2

to show that the disclosure would likely cause some kind of harm.

2. Fee waivers

Accessing public records can be expensive. But unlike our state public records law, FOIA includes a provision that allows journalists and others to obtain data and documents at a reduced rate if the release of the requested information "is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding" of how the government operates. Always ask for a fee waiver when filing a FOIA request, and give a brief explanation regarding why you think the standard is met.

3. Nongovernmental bodies

TPRA allows us to request records from nongovernmental bodies that serve as the "functional equivalent" of a government agency. It's a provision that courts have interpreted in different ways — both in favor of and against disclosure, depending on the circumstances — but it's one that is not included in FOIA. So, if you want records from federal contractors, you'll have to work your sources.

4. Expedited processing

FOIA allows records requesters to ask the government for expedited processing, something that TPRA unfortunately does not offer. This means you can request a quicker turnaround in accessing records while news is still fresh, though it doesn't mean you'll get it. To qualify, you have to establish that there is "urgency

to inform" the public about an ongoing government matter. In 2004, for example, a federal court granted faster processing when the American Civil Liberties Union requested records related to ongoing government surveillance under the USA Patriot Act.

5. Administrative appeals

When the federal government denies your records request, FOIA allows you to file an administrative appeal asking the agency to reconsider its decision. This option, which is not available under TPRA, gives journalists and others a chance to challenge an agency's rejection without having to immediately take the dispute to court, where things can get costly, quickly. Your administrative appeal doesn't have to be limited to the records at hand — you can also fight agency decisions on fee waivers and other issues. More than anything, I would strongly recommend that you always appeal. Never take an agency's initial rejection as the final word. And if you need legal support to make your case, don't hesitate to contact me, your friendly (and free) Reporters Committee attorney.

Paul McAdoo is the Tennessee Local Legal Initiative attorney for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. He is based in Nashville.

NEWS & MOVES from Page 3

Taylor named publisher of Herald-Citizen

Joyce Taylor, longtime general manager of the Cleveland Daily Banner, has been named as group publisher for three Paxton Media Group newspapers.

The announcement to employees was made Friday, Oct. 14, by Jana Thomasson, publisher of the Mountain Press in Sevierville and president of Paxton Media Group's North Carolina/Georgia/Tennessee division.

"I'm very excited to announce Joyce's promotion and have all the confidence in the world she will do a very good job," Thomasson said. "I think the experience she brings to the table will be very beneficial to readers in those communities."

Taylor began her 38-year career at the Banner in the composing department in 1984, moved to the position of assistant bookkeeper in 1985, then accepted the position of bookkeeper/office manager in 1993. She was promoted to general manager in 2016.

In her new role as group publisher, Taylor will oversee operations for the Cleveland Daily Banner, the Herald-Citizen in Cookeville, and the Daily Mountain Eagle in Jasper, Alabama.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to step into a new role at these long-established community newspapers," Taylor said. "I



Taylor

look forward to working with the experienced and dedicated staff, many of whom have distinguished careers of 25 years or more at their respective newspapers."

Taylor noted she was fortunate to be able to work under the leadership of past Banner publishers Pledger "Goldie" Wattenbarger, Stephen Crass, Ralph Baldwin, Jack McNeely and long-time General Manager Jim Bryant.

Taylor is a graduate of Cleveland State Community College. She and her husband of 35 years, Jimmy, are lifelong residents of McDonald. They have one son, Matthew, who resides in New Braunfels, Texas.

The Paducah, Kentucky-based Paxton Media Group purchased the Banner in September, 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.

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.

The Herald-Citizen, Cookeville Oct. 17, 2022



**Tennessee Press Service
Advertising Placement Snapshot**

	ROP:	Networks:
September 2022	\$55,901	\$9,581
Year* as of Sept. 30	\$1,016,340	\$182,342

* The TPS Fiscal Year runs Dec. 1 through Nov. 30

A fond farewell to a place and job that were special for me

After visiting this region in 2012, I always secretly held the wish that someday I would live here. This place is special. I knew it then and I know it now.

So, late 2016 rolled around and my wish came true. There was this deep-held belief that retirement from the newspaper industry was in my future here. But as Robert Burns wrote, “The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men / Gang aft a-gley.” That translates to “The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.

And they did.

My time at the helm of this ship comes to an end Friday. It admittedly isn’t without some sadness. But blanketing that sadness is a whole lot of real joy and satisfaction.

No matter what you may think of recent announced changes in the size and content of your newspaper, the changes are necessary for survival. Actually, there was another choice — we could have stopped publishing a print edition



GUEST COLUMN

RICK THOMASON

a few days a week altogether.

The decision was made to instead scale back two or three days. But the absolute most important takeaway here is that your local journalism remains. Every. Single. Day.

That’s not the norm in the newspaper industry. More daily newspapers today publish print editions just four or five days a week. It’s simple economics. Publishing seven days here demonstrates a commitment to bringing you the work of our local journalists, all a part of the largest and most competent news gathering organization in the Appalachian Highlands.

Continue to support them

because communities without newspapers tend to sink into dark places. That’s not just me saying that; multiple independent studies show that government corruption rises in news deserts and voter turnout tanks. Why? Because residents aren’t well informed.

Newspapers remain important to the wellbeing of communities. And in most cities and regions — including this one — no other media offers the depth of reporting that your local newspapers offer.

But I digress and will hop down off my soapbox.

I moved here not just for the job opportunity, but because of the people. That’s not unusual to hear from non-native residents. People here are overwhelmingly friendly. People still say ‘yes sir’ and ‘no sir’ here. People here still greet one another with ‘good morning’. People here still hold doors open for one another. People here still (mostly) treat one another with respect, and they care for their neighbors.

That’s not the norm everywhere. Trust me.

I was welcomed here with open arms and invited to get involved in the communities. And I did. I’ve served on chamber and nonprofit boards and have attended more community events than I could possibly count. Through all that, I’ve met hundreds of amazing people who are dedicated to not only preserving the culture but growing the economic base for prosperity. Support those folks. They’re working their butts off for your future and the futures of generations to come.

I thank them all for their diligence and friendship.

Last but absolutely not least, I must give a shout out, high five and my most heartfelt appreciation to the associates of Six Rivers Media, parent company of this newspaper. They’re good people. They’re your neighbors.

On any given day about 140 SRM employees produce prod-

ucts that keep you informed and entertained. They care about their communities. And they care about their readers and customers. They care about delivering to you an accurate, timely news product the likes of which you can’t get anywhere else. They’re dedicated and realize that what they do is often thankless work. Yet they pull up their bootstraps every day because they know that what they do is a calling. It’s important to you.

What’s next for me? Excellent question! If there were an answer, you’d read it in just seconds. Staying in the region would be my preference. I love it here. And contrary what you might hear on the streets, I’m definitely not retiring. My future is open and bright and, no doubt, full of adventure. (Yes, I’m an optimist.) Here, it’s been a helluva ride and I’ve enjoyed every second of it.

So, to steal a line from news anchor Lester Holt, please take care of yourself and each other.

Newspaper reporting and content have never been more relevant

BRETT WESNER
National Newspaper Association
October 1, 2022

Editor’s note: This article was submitted as part of a package from the National Newspaper Association (NNA) in recognition of National Newspaper Week in October. Space limitations kept us from running it in our October issue, but it is presented here for your edification. Wesner is the chair of the NNA.

We all have stories of readers desperately seeking reliable information about COVID-19 during the pandemic and turning to us to deliver accurate national and state health departments’ evolving assessments as well as local reporting on treatment options in our communities.

Members of Congress do value their local community newspapers

We at NNA see it in our daily government affairs work with members of Congress, who almost uniformly admire their local community papers regardless of how they might feel about the

national press.

We see it in the example of the civic leaders in Mineral Wells, TX, who were so distraught over the closing of their newspaper that they reached out to Jeremy Gulban and his CherryRoad group to open one. That he did, as he has in other communities.

And these examples of relevance are borne out by the hard numbers. In March, the National Newspapers Association and NNA Foundation commissioned a survey of readers from across the country, conducted by the highly regarded Susquehanna Polling and Research team. The results confirmed our daily experiences.

The study found local newspapers as the most trusted source when it comes to learning about candidates for public office. On a 10-point scale (with 10 being the “highest”), local newspapers are rated a 7.38, higher than TV stations (6.45), radio (5.58), political mailings (4.63) or social media platforms (2.65).

And our trustworthiness is growing. Compare this year’s results to our 2019 study, when on the issue of trustworthiness, community newspapers represented

a more trusted news source (5.77 on a 10-point scale) than other news sources, rating higher than national network TV news (5.13), cable TV news shows (4.60) and all others. Social media sources like Twitter or Facebook were rated lowest, at 2.92.

The study confirms there is a strong correlation between those who read community newspapers and those who cast ballots in elections. A combined 96% of readers of local newspapers say they plan to vote this November—either “very” or “somewhat” likely.

“It seems to us,” Jim Lee, president, Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc., said, “that voters are increasingly hungry for a higher level of professional integrity when it comes to journalism (both local and national) in today’s age of constant cable TV news and partisan leaning news media outlets.”

TV stations (70%) and local newspapers (68%) are most often relied on as news sources to make decisions about elections compared to much lower scores for direct mailings from candidates or political parties (44%), radio stations (40%) or social media

platforms (19%).

A combined 77% of respondents say they read a newspaper that covers their local community (a nice increase from a 65% average, 2017-2019), consumed via printed edition and online edition, as well as these additional online options that were not in previous surveys: Facebook, YouTube, TikTok or other social media platform.

Community newspapers still received high scores in metrics

Local newspapers also continue to receive high metrics on things like “[it] informs me” (93% agree), “[it] provides valuable local shopping and advertising information (81% agree), and “my household relies on [it] for local news (83%).

The trust quotient is easy to understand. While some readers may think they get news from social media, who knows the source of that news? But readers know where their local newspaper is and how to ask questions or challenge the editor’s news judgment when they disagree.

The difficulty, as most in the

industry realize, is not in the relevance of our content, but in our revenue models.

Most local newspapers are experimenting with technology to enhance our readers’ experience and provide new ways for our advertisers to reach our still-strong audience, including newsletters, video, e-editions, and social media publishing, both for our own publications as well as our advertisers. But the reliance upon the revenue from the print newspaper remains the backbone of the newsroom. Too many have written the obituary of the print newspaper when, instead, they should be supporting its mission.

Readers can help with their subscriptions and contribution. More critically, Congress can help by creating a level playing field for newspapers through the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act. It also can ensure that the valuable federal advertising dollar reaches America’s smaller communities through local newspapers.

Americans believe in and rely upon community newspapers. Are we in a crisis of revenue, yes, most certainly. But relevance? We have that hands down.

MURDERS from Page 1

Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Parrish is also a former publisher for three news organizations.

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and at least 48 other media organizations have asked to file a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the Review-Journal's efforts.

A Clark County district judge on Wednesday issued a temporary restraining order delaying the search of German's devices. A hearing is set for next week.

The newspaper earlier this week pointed out that these materials are confidential by law, but has been willing to compromise and allow a third party, or special master, to help review German's devices and only pass on necessary information to the parties.

Experts call it a potential solution. But if a compromise isn't reached, drawn-out appeals could delay the criminal trial.

Telles' attorneys did not respond to requests for comment Friday. When reached by phone, District Attorney Steve Wolfson said prosecutors would address the matter in the courtroom.

Metro wrote in a statement that German is the victim of a crime, not just a reporter.

"No one is more concerned about the victim's rights than his family, the District Attorney, and the LVMPD," a department spokesperson wrote. "Everything we are doing is designed to provide justice for the victim's family."

But Review-Journal Executive Editor Glenn Cook said the murder of German was an attack on journalism itself.

"Now Jeff's slaying has led to another direct attack on journalism, one that threatens press rights and privileges across the country," Cook said. "It would be the height of injustice if Jeff's murder somehow compromised the identities of his confidential sources."

Nevada's shield law

Only about a quarter of states with shield laws have no exceptions to the protections, said Anthony Fargo, director of Indiana University's Center for International Media Law and Policy Studies.

Nevada is one of them.

Some experts say that makes it a clear-cut decision to bar police



Bizuayehu Tesfaye/Las Vegas Review-Journal

Attorney Ashley Kissinger, left, representing the Review-Journal, discuss with District Attorney Steve Wolfson, prior to the start of the hearing in the Robert Telles case regarding the RJ's motion at the Regional Justice Center, on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022, in Las Vegas. The RJ's motion is to prevent Metro from disseminating Jeff German's information from his seized personal devices.



Bizuayehu Tesfaye/Las Vegas Review-Journal

Outgoing Clark County Public Administrator Robert Telles, center, charged with murder in the death of Las Vegas Review-Journal investigative journalist Jeff German, and attorney Joel Tasca, right, representing the Las Vegas Review-Journal, listen as Attorney Ashley Kissinger, left, also representing the Review-journal, addresses the court during a hearing for Telles' case regarding the paper's motion at the Regional Justice Center, on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022, in Las Vegas. The Review-Journal's motion is to prevent the Las Vegas Police Department from disseminating German's information from his seized personal devices.

from searching German's devices, but laws protecting journalists have been disputed in Nevada before.

In 2000, the state Supreme Court noted that parties might argue there could be an exception to the shield law, but the court did not rule on the issue.

The justices decided that a Review-Journal reporter could not be forced to testify about his reporting in a lawsuit without determining whether certain situations may call for it, such as when a defendant's constitutional rights are in question.

The Review-Journal, along with



Patrick Semansky, AP Photo

People hug as they gather for a vigil in response to a shooting in the Capital Gazette newsroom, Friday, June 29, 2018, in Annapolis, Md. Prosecutors say Jarrod W. Ramos opened fire Thursday in the newsroom.



Jose Luis Magana, AP Photo

Photos of five journalists adorn candles during a vigil across the street from where they were slain in their newsroom in Annapolis, Md., Friday, June 29, 2018. Prosecutors say Jarrod W. Ramos opened fire in the Capital Gazette newsroom.

the Associated Press, was also locked in a legal fight for autopsy reports after the Oct. 1, 2017, mass shooting on the Strip.

A court order released the public records. Then a different judge ordered the news outlets to destroy one of the reports, siding with the privacy concerns of a killed police officer's widow.

The Nevada Supreme Court soon overturned the attempt to claw back the document, arguing that it violated the First Amendment.

Cases in other states also run parallel to the battle over German's devices.

Like German, freelance journalist Bryan Carmody kept his

reporting materials at his home. They were seized by San Francisco police in 2019 as part of an investigation into a leaked police report about the death of the city's public defender.

The warrants were later nullified and deemed illegal under California's shield law, but not before police learned the names of two officers Carmody had communicated with.

Carmody filed a claim against the city and officials agreed in March 2020 to pay him a \$369,000 settlement.

U.S. history of killed

MURDERS from Page 6**journalists**

Telles is the first U.S. elected official in at least three decades accused of killing a journalist over media coverage.

In that same time period, 13 journalists have been killed for their work here, according to data tracked by the Committee to Protect Journalists.

That includes the five Maryland journalists shot and killed in their newsroom in 2018 by a gunman angered over the newspaper's coverage of his guilty plea in a previous harassment case.

German's murder is a rare occurrence in the United States but comes at a time when animosity against reporters has ratcheted up.

"It's mind-boggling to me that we're at this point in America," Parrish said. "Without a free press, there is truly no free country."

There's no evidence that authorities attempted to seize Arizona Republic investigative reporter

Don Bolles' work after he was killed pursuing a story in 1976, according to news reports and media law experts. Bolles died 11 days after a bomb exploded under his car. Dozens of reporters would later comb through his notes and files as part of the Arizona Project to finish Bolles' investigation into organized crime and corruption.

In 2007, Oakland Post editor Chauncey Bailey was gunned down on his morning walk to work over a story he was writing about a bakery's financial problems. Three people were eventually convicted of the crime.

Police seized Bailey's laptop from the murder scene, but never accessed it, according to Thomas Peele, an investigative reporter who worked for the Bay Area News Group when he and others started the Chauncey Bailey Project to finish his work.

Law enforcement returned the device to Bailey's family, who gave them to Peele. He still has the hard drive to this day. The shell of the laptop was later displayed

at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., which closed in 2019.

Peele said investigators never subpoenaed Bailey's unpublished story about the bakery, even though the newspaper had retained a copy. It was also not shown to jurors.

"The police in Oakland looked at it as being a street crime and a black-on-black thing," Peele said, "and didn't give it the same aggressive treatment that a murder over someone's First Amendment rights should have had."

After the newsroom massacre at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, then-editor Rick Hutzell and other managers decided they would fight any attempt to seize work product.

That never happened, Hutzell said. The newspaper did turn over the security footage of the shooting to prosecutors.

But the situation was also different in other ways: The reporter whose work had inflamed the killer was no longer employed by the paper, and the stories had been written seven years earlier.

"The only thing that's even remotely similar here is just that the prosecutor asked us not to report on it, which we rejected," Hutzell said.

Special master

Despite the argument that searching German's devices is vital to Telles' right to a fair trial, media experts say that's not an excuse to peruse all of his communications.

"It feels like an eternal witch hunt for law enforcement, rather than a good-hearted attempt for a thorough investigation into the alleged killer's motivations," said Katherine Jacobsen of the Committee to Protect Journalists, a nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide.

Joseph Russomanno, a mass communication law professor at



Noah Berger, AP Photo

A memorial was set up Aug. 3, 2007, on the Oakland, Calif., sidewalk where journalist Chauncey Bailey was slain that Thursday.

Arizona State, said the violent nature of the case demands German's sources be protected.

For some, it could jeopardize their safety or careers.

"There's a potential domino effect that could ripple through the whole database that might be discovered," he said.

Las Vegas criminal defense attorney Todd Leventhal said the Review-Journal's suggestion of resolving this with a neutral third party is comparable to cases he has tried in federal court.

In those cases, a special master

from out of state reviewed the discovery independently to protect confidential informants. Leventhal said it could provide a common ground for both parties in this case.

"Telles does have a right to delve into alternate defense theories," he said. "But on the other hand, those people have a right to confidentiality, which is what they assumed when they were speaking to Jeff."

This article was reprinted in The Tennessee Press with permission from the Las Vegas Review-Journal.



AP Photo

City and federal investigators examined a car damaged on Wednesday, June 3, 1976 in Phoenix, Ariz., in a bomb explosion which critically injured Arizona Republic investigative reporter Don Bolles, 47.



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- Opening Reception—state legislators invited
- Journalism students invited to participate on Thursday
- New location. Watch for details in mid-December.

Perspective: The wrongness of letting government tell us to ‘shut up – or else’

There may be no worse assault on our freedom of speech than a law that would permit the government to tell us to “shut up” when it comes to discussion and debate on a major social issue of our time – and to punish us if we don’t.

Freedom of speech under the First Amendment is rooted in the concept of a “marketplace of ideas,” where information and robust, uninhibited exchanges are protected to ensure all can speak and be heard.

As a concept, most everyone agrees with that approach, particularly those in the minority of the moment, who need protection from being silenced by what the nation’s founders saw as a potential “tyranny of the majority.”

The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* is producing yet another attempt to sabotage the marketplace approach to debate — to, in effect, tell us to “shut up or else.” Proposed model legislation by the National Right to Life Committee is being promoted to state legislatures with a goal of creating criminal and civil penalties for speech seen to be “aiding or abetting” abortions.

The vagueness of the proposed



FREEDOM FORUM

GENE POLICINSKI

laws raises real constitutional questions. Would news reports about abortion that include comments by choice advocates, or that simply mentioned states where abortion remains lawful, spark legal action against journalists or news organizations that run afoul of this law?

Would academic papers or lectures about the issue that note pro-choice arguments place authors or speakers in jeopardy? Would websites that offer information to those merely investigating out-of-state abortion options draw prosecution or civil lawsuits simply for providing information without direct advocacy? What if those websites are operated by a person or organization in a state where abortion remains legal but are merely accessed by someone in a state where it is not?

The First Amendment demands that our laws are drafted with

enough precision that we can understand whether what we say will get us in trouble. This is necessary to ensure that those in power don’t engage in arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement.

It’s an important protection because, unfortunately, our nation has a history of attempts to stifle the open discussion of ideas and proposals that challenge the status quo or that would solidify a temporary political advantage.

For example, in the era leading up to the Civil War, the U.S. Congress responded to annual abolitionist lobbying to outlaw slavery by adopting a ban in 1836 on such proposed legislation, rejecting the First Amendment’s rights of petition.

In some southern and border states, the action was even broader, adopting similar laws to one passed in 1837 in Missouri that banned any anti-slavery speech of any kind and imposed special taxes on abolitionist activities. In that same year, in Illinois – a free state – a mob killed newspaper editor Elijah Lovejoy and destroyed his printing press to silence the abolitionist’s voice.

There were efforts leading up to and during World War I to punish

speech that was anti-war, opposed a wartime military draft or that promoted socialism or communism. Some efforts survived court challenges in the name of “national security.” So-called “Red Scare” periods followed both World Wars, with the McCarthy era and “blacklisting” running roughshod over First Amendment rights in the late 1940s and 1950s, fueled by an anti-communist fervor.

In more contemporary times, a lawsuit aimed at silencing civil rights advocates led to a historic U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1964, in *The New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, protecting the right to free and unfettered discussion involving elected officials and later to include public figures, even when the speech involved some unintentional errors of fact.

In 2011, a Supreme Court decision rejected a challenge to the tactics of a small group known as the Westboro Baptist Church, which included vulgar attacks on gay people and others. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote: “Speech is powerful. It can stir people to action, move them to tears of both joy and sorrow, and – as it did here – inflict great pain ... We

cannot react to that pain by punishing the speaker ... as a nation we have chosen a different course – to protect even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate.”

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., in his final speech before his assassination in 1968, proclaimed the essential nature of First Amendment freedoms to a national debate over social justice: “Somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly. Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the greatness of America is the right to protest for right.”

Those who would support laws intending to restrict or silence discussion and debate — by journalists, academics, advocates, or any other citizen — about abortion or any other social issues must understand that providing truthful information is not approval, and that the open exchange of ideas is fundamental to a democratic, self-governing system.

Gene Policinski is a senior fellow for the First Amendment at the Freedom Forum. He can be reached at gpolicinski@freedomforum.org.

A newspaper editor cries for help, in a surprisingly frank way, and gets it; his embarrassed publisher is glad he did

AL CROSS
The Rural Blog
September 15, 2022

Rural newspapers have become more willing to share the threats to their existence with readers, but perhaps none so frankly as the Meade County Messenger in Brandenburg, Ky., did last month.

Under a headline reading, “Will you cheer the death of an institution or come to its aid?” Editor Chad Hobbs told how the paper was suffering from social media, a boycott by some advertisers upset about an editorial stance, his personal travails in covering recent stories, and, of course, Covid-19: “The pandemic and ensuing shutdowns wrecked our advertising lifeline to the point the owner of this paper hasn’t taken a cent from the business in over two years.”

Whoa. That revelation about how much money a paper is making, or not making, is exceedingly rare in the newspaper business. And it surprised the publisher of the paper, Rena Singleton, who has other sources of income. “I didn’t know he was going to put that editorial in,” much less reveal the paper’s finances, Singleton told me. “It embarrassed me.” But it’s working out for them. Here’s the rest of story:

Hobbs and Singleton, who has owned the weekly for 40 years, said the editorial sprang from a meeting of the paper’s five-member staff, in which she “put responsibility on them for the future of the paper,” as she put it. “He took it to heart.” In his 1,328-word editorial, Hobbs followed the financial revelation with this passage:

“The final straw has been the fallout from us doing our job as your watchdog. We hear from countless readers how much you appreciate the fact that we hold leaders accountable and fearlessly defend the citizens of this county and their tax dollars. Doing the right thing and upholding that mandate by the common men and women of this county has come at one heck of a price. After supporting everything the Meade County Chamber of Commerce has done since its inception, we sided with the people and dared to say we didn’t agree with the tax dollars they were wanting to spend on a new facility,” which would have been paid for by local governments. “Several large businesses that have always supported us have pulled their advertising because the forum page does not

Submitted
Right: Chad Hobbs and Rena Singleton in their Brandenburg, Ky., office

paint images of their friends in politics while wearing rose-colored glasses.”

So, a newspaper that needs more business attacked the umbrella entity for the business community. But the reaction wasn’t what you might expect, Singleton and Hobbs said. Some have offered help, she said, and “That’s what we needed most. . . . His editorial did have an impact.” She said that if she had seen the editorial in advance, and had known the reaction would be positive, she would have left in the news that she hadn’t taken an ownership distribution from the paper in two years.



Singleton said she’s sure other weekly publishers are in similar situations, but “Nobody’s telling it.” Asked if she would recommend publishers be more forthcoming about their finances, she said yes.

UT School of Journalism & Electronic Media celebrates its 75th anniversary

SUBMITTED
UT School of Journalism and EM
September 20, 2022

Editor's note: This article was written by students as part of SCOOP Magazine, an annual publication created through the guidance of faculty members. Christian Knox wrote the introduction. Symposium interviews by Christian Knox, Andrew Peters, Chloe Sutton, Natalie Welch, and Riley Woody

As the rate of evolution within the field of journalism increased exponentially over the past 75 years, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's School of Journalism and Electronic Media (JEM) adapted at every twist and turn along the way to provide a top-tier theoretical and practical journalism education to its students.

Starting in 1923, UT journalism classes were offered through the English department. In 1947, after the Tennessee Press Association asked the university to build up its journalism program, the journalism department was created as part of the College of Business. Thanks to free tuition from the GI Bill of Rights, World War II veterans poured into the journalism department—and wrote for *The Orange and White*, the predecessor of *The Daily Beacon*.

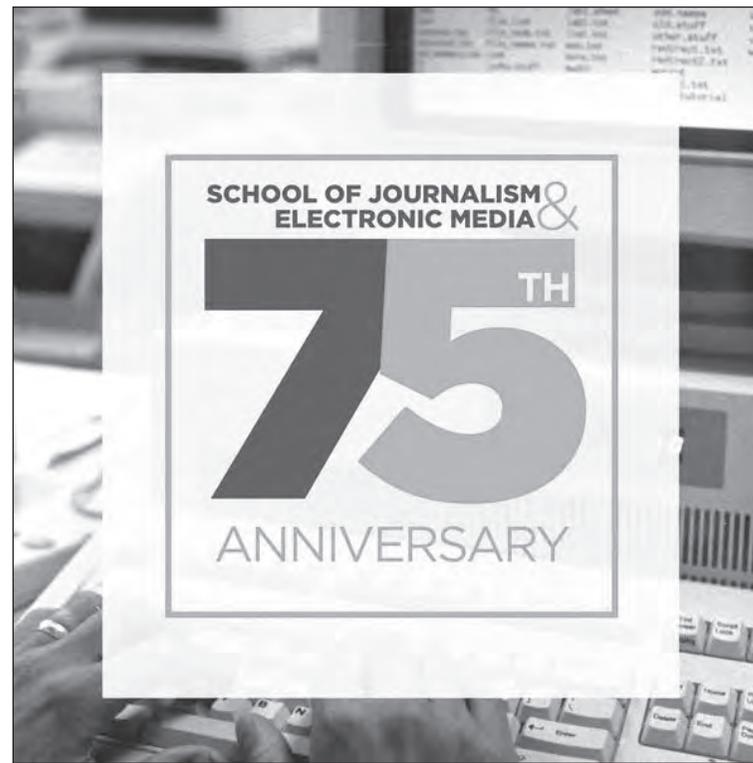
The School of Journalism was founded in 1957, laying the groundwork for the creation of the College of Communications in 1969. As broadcast media grew in popularity, the university opened the Department of Broadcasting

within the College of Communications in 1970. Sam Swan, who replaced Darrel Holt as head of the department in 1985, was a catalyst for development. He required all broadcasting students to work at WUTK, and he launched the UT Today program on WBIR in 1996. “The program was the only kind in the nation produced by students and broadcast on a non-owned network affiliate,” says Swan. He also led 19 students on the college's first study abroad trip in 2000, establishing what would become the college's Global Programs initiative.

Three years later, the Department of Broadcasting merged with the School of Journalism to form the School of Journalism and Electronic Media; around the same time, the college acquired the School of Information Sciences and changed its name to the College of Communication and Information (CCI). Since then, professors have adapted their courses to include web journalism, social media, podcasting, digital newsletters, and even virtual reality—all while preparing students to compete in the ever-changing field. As the world of journalism and media continues to morph at a rapid pace, JEM continues to adapt to the newest emerging media while educating students on the time-tested tenets that sit at the heart of journalism.

Symposium

Members of the SCOOP 2022 team chatted with six JEM fac-



ulty members about the past and future of our school—and the enterprise of preparing students for a world of ever-changing media and communication.

Participants: Catherine Luther, JEM Director and Professor; Nick Geidner, Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, Director of Land Grant Films; Guy Harrison, Assistant professor; Rob Heller, Professor; Joy Jenkins, Assistant Professor; Mustafa Oz, Assistant Professor

(Interviews were edited and condensed for publication.)

Rob Heller: “The 75th is a wonderful time to celebrate. I have students I've been in touch with from a very long time ago. Recently, I chatted with a student I had about twenty-five or so years ago—and it was like no time had passed. She's a vice president of marketing at a major software manufacturer. She told me she still uses the things that I taught her back then. The best thing about being here this

long is that you build up this network of former students—in the thousands sometimes.”

Catherine Luther: “I'm excited about our school of journalism and electronic media because it encompasses so many different areas—strong journalism, ethical communication, creative communication, production, visual communication, photojournalism.”

Nick Geidner: “I think we've always had excellent students who we prepared and taught—and who were then able to go out and build careers through journalism, or television production, or science commentary that really added to their community. Today, we're preparing students to benefit their communities through media creation. A lot of what we were doing decades ago is similar today—but slightly different, slightly tweaked, slightly better. I hope we've gotten better over the last 75 years! The idea is still the same: to give students the tools to create journalism and media ethically that adds to the community—and to the world.”

Luther: “All those skill sets that students are learning are what employers are currently looking for: strong writers with the ability to communicate interpersonally; electronic communication skills; and ethical standards that value diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our recent hires give us strength in social journalism, data visualization, diversity, and equity. We're always

See **75th** Page 10

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Hobbs, a former reporter who moved into the editor's job in March, is a native of Meade County. Singleton said that helped his editorial have more impact than it would have if written by someone who had moved in from the outside. Hobbs reminded his audience of that in his conclusion:

“If you cut me open, I bleed Meade County green, and I can't thank those that support me enough for allowing me to do what I do for this long. I love doing what I do, no matter how bad it hurts sometimes. As much as I hate asking for help, it appears that, if something doesn't soon give, we very well may be traveling down a road together

Submitted/Google map, adapted by The Rural Blog.

Chad Hobbs, editor of the Meade County Messenger, Brandenburg, Ky.: “If you cut me open, I bleed Meade County green, and I can't thank those that support me enough for allowing me to do what I do for this long. I love doing what I do, no matter how bad it hurts sometimes.”

that is quickly becoming too narrow for the Messenger to fit. We've fought for you Meade County for over 100 years, and we would love to do it for another 100 years. Will you let your grand ol' oak wither and die over a



couple of articles you didn't agree with, or will you come to our aid in this time of need, like we have so many times for you, Meade County?”

Singleton said the editorial also helped the community realize the

value of the newspaper at a time when it is getting a large industry, many new residents and more development issues for the paper to cover. In the last few decades, Meade County has become mainly a bedroom community for people who work in nearby cities or Fort Knox, which lies partly in the county.

The commuters “forgot their community,” Singleton said. “The people here are starting to lose the community feel, and realize the only thing that's holding us together is the community newspaper.”

Al Cross is Director and Professor, Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, University of Kentucky.

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paying attention and learning. Our challenge is to keep up with the times—and I'm thrilled to see the faculty doing that. Journalism has to be an innovative career. You have no choice; the industry has changed so much."

Guy Harrison: "Even though it's this big anniversary and we've been around for so long, the things that were important when this school first opened are still important now. Fairness, being a good storyteller, being honest and transparent, minimizing harm to individuals—those are all still very important. It still all comes back to writing: Whether it's feature stories or breaking news or even broadcast writing, writing is the most important skill we teach."

Heller: "With everything that's going on in the world, and with news and journalism being witness to all of that, it's very important that students—and I don't mean just our students but the entire university—have access to good classes in media literacy and the importance of journalism in a democratic society. That should be a course that everyone in the university takes at some point."

Geidner: "We're fully committed to adjusting with society. Media is in a state of flux—it has been forever but more than ever over the last 20 years—and we

are trying our best to prepare our students for working in an ethical and professional manner."

Joy Jenkins: "Journalism has always played a valuable democratic role in the United States by giving a space to talk about important issues in society, to share differing views, and to help people understand various perspectives—and that value and function hasn't changed. Holding people in power to account is still something that journalists strive to accomplish, and that remains important no matter the business models nor platforms nor reading habits of consumers. We still need this Fourth Estate to speak for us and to ask tough questions."

Luther: "I think the need for journalism in our society has increased. The disinformation that now easily circulates because of the internet and social media makes it our responsibility to increase public awareness of the critical role true journalism plays. Journalists are putting their lives on the line just to get the story out and just to make people aware. It's hard to put into words exactly how much our field matters."

Jenkins: "Students want to challenge the traditional formats that have always been offered, like the evening newscasts, newspapers, and magazines. They ask: 'How can we tell stories in different ways?' More and more people are turning

not only to digital platforms for their news, but also to mobile devices as well as to social media. Facebook and Twitter are increasingly the most important news sources, and Gen Z have Instagram and TikTok—but as we look at these new tools and new opportunities, we also don't want to throw out the foundational stuff."

Harrison: "Many major stories have been broken in a feature magazine writing style. The practice of that style of writing is still important—even if students aren't going to write for a magazine published in a hard copy."

Jenkins: "I have talked a lot about magazine writing in other media. We see it online, in short-form video formats, on social media, in the podcast format. Magazine-style writing is everywhere now, and it's really popular. This idea of having media that's catered toward specific interests and speaking to us based on what we're interested in—that's a very magazine-style way of doing things."

Mustafa Oz: "In my opinion, journalism's whole purpose has not changed, but the way we produce the content, distribute content, and reach the audience has been changed. Students need to understand how to get data sets, analyze, visualize, and present those data sets to the public so people can understand."

Jenkins: "Students arrive at UT

and want to do any number of different things, from traditional journalism to broadcast. In all cases, we are giving them all those essential skills in terms of writing and interviewing and production and editing so that, when they go into a job, they're ready to go."

Oz: "Social media classes that I'm teaching are really important. We are also working on another class called data journalism. Everyone is producing data these days, and if journalists don't understand the data, how will they help the public understand the issues? Right now, we need to catch up with technology—how technology is evolving—and we need to teach classes that provide the skill sets that are necessary for future journalism such as data journalism, social media journalism, and data visualization."

Harrison: "Social media is neither good nor bad: it's just a change. People used to get their news and entertainment from radio—and then there was television. There are older people might say, 'I miss the days of radio.' Neither medium is better than the other—it's just different. Now journalists have to adjust."

Oz: "I was in Palestine for Social Media Week. I told the audience that audio is becoming more and more important each day because podcasts are making millions of dollars and people love them. Short

videos, like TikToks—people love those types of videos. These new emerging formats are more and more important. Five years ago, I never thought audio would become so important, because people like visual media—pictures and videos. Of course, social media has disadvantages, but it is still beneficial because independent journalists can reach a huge audience. Especially for countries like Turkey—I'm from there by the way—and we don't have independent media outlets, so some journalists, if they want to tell the truth about the government and about corruption, just work by themselves. They work as social media journalists, and they rely on donations from their audience so they can survive."

Jenkins: "We're trying to be a place that is adaptable, flexible, and aware of shifts in the industry. We're not going to teach the same classes and the same curriculum year after year. We teach the basics and the essentials, but we're also a faculty who has an eye on what's happening, what's new, what students are interested in—and what might excite students. We are adaptable with our classes and formats. UT's JEM program is a place where we're going to do the best we can to reflect what's going on to prepare students well; we want to push our students to ensure they achieve their goals in journalism."

NABJ Black News & Views highlights stories by Black journalists and about Black community

AUSTIN FITZGERALD
Reynolds Journalism Institute
June 10, 2022

After nearly 46 years advocating for Black journalists nationwide, the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) has launched Black News & Views (BNV), a vehicle for news about the Black community in the United States and around the world that might otherwise go unseen.

BNV also will provide a stage for little-seen, award-winning journalism highlighting segments of Black life and will feature the best in journalism from partner organizations about Black communities in the United States and around the world.

In collaboration with the Reynolds Journalism Institute (RJI) at the University of Missouri, NABJ has built a news platform that will aggregate content from Black journalists from a wide range of news

partners, including Black-owned media and national media such as the Washington Post, USA Today, Bloomberg, ESPN, NBC and CNBC, and many others.

But aggregated news is only part of the equation; the site will also be producing original journalism aimed at providing news about Black communities by Black journalists.

"We will feature those hidden gems and good reads that rarely see the light of day," said Melanie Eversley, BNV executive editor. "BNV is a destination site for people seeking well-executed journalism about Black people around the world."

"We are creating original content that people might not typically see except at the end of a newscast or during Black History Month," added Tamara Banks, Director of Content and Media Partnerships for BNV. "We want to reach the Black community in a

way that has never been done before, to give them news they might not otherwise get."

Black News & Views features articles, op-eds, videos, and podcasts, and a newsletter will also be launched to highlight top stories. Of particular interest to the site's founders are stories that receive little coverage in mainstream media, or those that take highly covered stories in a new direction. For example, one upcoming piece will take a deeper look at the political and community backdrop behind the racially motivated Buffalo shootings.

The range of content and the network of relationships with publications and journalists across the country reflect the continuing growth of the NABJ, which was formed in 1975 by 44 journalists and now counts a membership of more than 4,000. Members include student and professional journal-

ists, educators, and other media professionals.

Teamwork makes the dream work

While the site itself depends on collaboration, with stories coming from a mixture of freelance reporters and news publications, Black News & Views was collaborative from its inception. RJI provided funding and helped manage the technical development of the site, an effort led by Kat Duncan, Director of Innovation at RJI.

"Black News and Views is an important resource I am proud to have helped create," Duncan said. "Black communities are often underserved by news outlets, this platform will give them a place to access the vital information and news they need and deserve."

A "think and do tank" that works with the news industry,

professors, students and others to strengthen journalism, RJI serves as a significant source of funding and expertise for projects and programs nationwide that seek to advance innovation and diversity in the industry.

Sandra Dawson Long Weaver, one of the organization's original founders and the Director of Content for Black News & Views, emphasized that while stories will focus on the Black community, the site's audience should be broad.

"This is one of the most innovative and creative things we've done since founding the organization," Long Weaver said. "Yes, our focus is on covering overlooked or underreported stories that impact the Black community, but this is a place where everyone can come to find that information. This is black journalism, but it's also just good journalism that everyone can appreciate."

OBITUARIES

Joe Biddle

Joe Biddle, a former Nashville Banner and Tennessean sports columnist whose second act made him a beloved sports talk radio personality, died Wednesday at Alive Hospice. He was 78 and had suffered from dementia.

Biddle, who was born on June 13, 1944, and grew up in Johnson City, was an East Tennessee State graduate and Air Force veteran of the Vietnam war and among the most decorated and popular sports writers to ever work in Nashville.



Biddle

He was a four-time Tennessee Sports Writer of the Year chosen by the National Sportscasters and Sports Writers Association. He was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame in 2013, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2016 and the Alumni Hall of Fame by ET-SU's Communication Department in 2005.

Biddle spent many years as a voter on the Associated Press college football and basketball polls, was an original voter for the Harris Poll, which determined the two teams that would play in the BCS national championship, and served as the state director for Heisman Trophy voters through 2016.

Biddle began his journalism career at the Johnson City Press Chronicle in 1971 and moved to the Daytona Beach News-Journal after one year, covering college football and basketball along with the Daytona 500 and the NFL expansion Tampa Bay Buccaneers until 1979.

In November 1979, Biddle went to work at the Nashville Banner. He was promoted to sports editor and columnist in 1981 and remained at the afternoon newspaper until it closed in 1998.

One of the newspaper's most popular contests was "I Beat Biddle," where readers would try to pick more college football winners each week. If they were successful, the prize was an "I Beat Biddle" bumper sticker, and for many years the red, white and blue stickers remained on cars around Nashville.

After the Nashville Banner closed in 1998, Biddle moved to The Tennessean as a sports columnist and remained there until 2011. Biddle ended his career writing for the Williamson Herald and WKRN-2.

During his sports writing career, Biddle covered 31 Super Bowls, 31 NCAA Final Fours, 30 Masters tournaments, 12 World Series, a Ryder Cup, two Summer Olympic Games, several college football national championships and several more bowl games.

Biddle had a knack for delivering sports news first because of the close and trusting relationships he developed with newsmakers in the community.

As successful and well-known as Biddle became as a sports writer, he also was a popular figure on sports talk radio, starting out on Gerry House's top-rated House Foundation and later moving to WWTN-FM's afternoon drive SportsNight, where he served as co-host with George Plaster.

SportsNight was the top-rated sports show in Nashville for many years.

It was during his time on the radio when Biddle's impersonation of former Tennessee Vols football coach Johnny Majors became a hit. Majors once told Biddle a lot of people said he sounded like the coach, but Majors, with a sly grin, said he didn't think so.

Biddle is survived by his wife Sharon. They were married 47 years.

The Tennessean, Nashville
Oct. 26, 2022

Michael Lollar

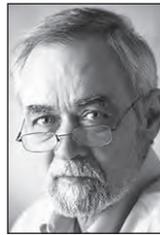
James Michael Lollar, who reported on federal courts and Elvis Presley and everything in between during a 44-year career at Memphis' morning daily newspaper, died Wednesday at his home in Bartlett, according to his daughter, Kate Lollar.

"Mike" — as he was known to friends — had been in ill health recently, with emphysema and bouts of pneumonia. He was 74.

"One of Memphis' best reporters and a brilliant writer"

On Facebook, former reporter Tom Jones called Lollar "one of Memphis' best reporters and a brilliant writer."

"We spent many months together covering federal court trials,



Lollar

attest to how much we will miss him."

An old-school newspaper reporter with a wide range of interests and an ability to cover any type of story, Lollar was not only a reliable reporter but an expert wordsmith who brought empathy and clarity and — when suitable — even humor to news and "feature" stories alike.

In a career at The Commercial Appeal that began in 1970 and ended when he retired in 2014, he covered numerous Memphis events of national interest, including the infamous "Deep Throat" obscenity trial and attempts by James Earl Ray to alter his prison sentence after originally entering a guilty plea in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Yet Lollar couldn't be pegged down. He exposed environmental waste scandals, rode night shifts with police officers, reviewed the 1975 Australian art-horror film "Picnic at Hanging Rock," and produced in-depth stories on Memphis bounty hunters, homelessness and "Androgyny" ("Culture is making gender strictly negotiable," he wrote in 1985) as a staff writer for The Commercial Appeal's now-vanished glossy Sunday supplement, Mid-South Magazine.

Born in Maryville, Tennessee, near Knoxville, Lollar was a recent graduate from the University of Tennessee when he came to The Commercial Appeal with a journalism degree and a yen to write. He quickly established himself as invaluable, and in later years staked a claim to the informal but always active "Elvis beat."

The newspaper even referred to Lollar in print as "the CA's resident 'Elvis reporter'" because of his numerous stories on Graceland and Presley-related tourism, and his interviews with such figures as Priscilla Presley and "Hound Dog" songwriter Mike Stoller, who in 2012 offered Lollar a verdict on Elvis' manager, "Colonel" Tom

and Mike could charm sources like no one I ever knew," Jones wrote. "He had a clever wit, he seemed to know someone in every part of Memphis, and anyone who knew him can

Parker, that is similar to one argued in director Baz Luhrmann's new "Elvis" movie: "I always say the Colonel made Elvis and killed Elvis... I think Elvis might still be alive today had he been allowed to grow as an artist, which is what he wanted to do."

"He was a natural storyteller, and he had a way of getting people to open up," said Lollar's former wife, Joan Lollar Cusick, a former reporter and editor at The Commercial Appeal who now lives in Sacramento. "I once asked him how he made his stories so readable. He said he wrote them as if his Granny Lollar was going to read them."

In addition to his daughters, Kate Lollar of Memphis, and Rachel Spencer of Lakeland, Lollar leaves two grandchildren.

The Commercial Appeal, Memphis
Oct. 10, 2022

Greg Kaylor

Former Cleveland Daily Banner reporter Greg Kaylor died Monday, Oct. 3, after a lengthy illness. He was 65.

During his 14-year tenure at the Banner, Kaylor doggedly covered the police beat, chronicling offenses from petty crimes to murder cases.

It was a job he took to heart.

"In many of my articles for the Banner, I described and documented many terrible things," Kaylor wrote in a farewell column published when he retired in 2014.

"It was my job."

One such high-profile case Kaylor covered was an investigation into the disappearance of Kathleen Wrinkle, a local woman who in 1956 presumably left her home for a job hunt in Chattanooga.

She was never seen again.

Decades later, when Kaylor received an email from a relative of Wrinkle's requesting an investigation, he jumped into action and contacted law enforcement.

"Most of this work was done without pay for us," he wrote. "Why? I guess ... just because it needed to be solved."

One day while investigators were surveying an old road bed in

Polk County, Kaylor wrote it was determined it was "possible that Kathleen had traveled toward the town of Copperhill."

But, instead of heading south that morning, Kaylor wrote Wrinkle "headed eastward, not telling her niece Evelyn Wrinkle Caylor, where she was going."

"Evelyn thought she was going to Chattanooga because the two had recently visited a job opportunity there," he wrote. "For reasons unknown, she had driven off the roadway into Parksville Lake just a few hundred yards from the dam."

Wrinkle's 1954 Chevrolet was found by divers after numerous searches.

"We couldn't determine if foul play was involved after 52 years, but at least we were able to bring her family a level of peace by helping them to understand that someone cared," Kaylor wrote.

In 2009, Wrinkle's remains were buried near her parents.

Kaylor also covered the arrests of "cold-blooded killers" John Patrick Henretta and Michael Goodhart, who were charged for the rape and murder of 32-year-old Frances Rose Crabtree in 1988.

Henretta and his accomplice, Goodhart, had been on the run for crimes committed in Pennsylvania. On Nov. 30, 1988, both stopped in Cleveland and robbed the Salvation Army Thrift Store after it closed.

During the robbery, Henretta and Goodhart raped the victim. But before leaving the store, Henretta stabbed Crabtree in the neck, "leaving her to bleed to death on the storeroom floor," Kaylor wrote.

The murder remained unsolved until 1994, when the Cleveland Police Department learned of a letter Goodhart wrote to a Pennsylvania federal judge providing details of the crime. Henretta was indicted in 1997 and later convicted of first-degree premeditated murder in 2002.

"It can be a hard job to report on some things," Kaylor wrote. "But, bad things happen to good people."

After leaving the Banner, Kaylor worked as a media specialist/investigator for the 10th Judicial District Attorney's Office. He also owned and operated a photography studio prior to working at the Banner.

Cleveland Daily Banner
Oct. 5, 2022



Kaylor

The 2022 UT-TPA State Press Contests Awards Luncheon revisited

Here are more photos from the Aug. 26 UT-TPA State Press Contests Awards Luncheon, in addition to those published in the October edition of The Tennessee Press.



Submitted

The Standard Banner, Jefferson City, won its all-time ninth General Excellence award, for Group II, this year. Staff members seated left to right: Angel Isbill, Dennis Barker Jr., Dale Gentry and Mark Brown. Standing: Steve Marion, Kim Trent, Teresa Gentry, Jesse Woody, Karen Trolinger, Lisa Seabolt, Ray Seabolt and Shane Cook.



Submitted

Brownsville Press won this year's General Excellence award in Group I. Pictured left to right are Lacey Baggett, Zoe Faught, Brooke McCain, Mark Kendrick, and Carlton Veirs.



Above photos by Tony Centonze, for TPA

Above left: Russell Ingle and Melanie King, McNairy County News, Selmer. Above center: Eva Herinkova, The LaFollette Press. Above right: Nathan Hickey and Sandy Dodson, The Bledsonian-Banner, Pikeville..



Photo by Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Brian Cutshall, The Greenville Sun, picks up the first-place plaque for Best Single Feature for Group IV. Presenting the award is Carrie Castille, senior vice chancellor and senior vice president at the UT Institute of Agriculture.



Photo by Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Duane Gang, The Tennessean, Nashville, receives the first-place placque for Best Education Reporting for Group V. The TPA State Contests Awards Luncheon was held Aug. 26 in Nashville.



Photo by Donn Jones, Donn Jones Photography

Heather Mullinix (right), Crossville Chronicle, picks up her first-place placque for Best Single Editorial in Group III.