

THE KENTUCKY PRESS

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People and Papers UK to conduct online survey for newspapers

The University of Kentucky's Department of Community and Leadership Development and the School of Journalism and Telecommunications in conjunction with KPA will be conducting a state wide online survey of community newspaper (circulation less than 50,000) editors.

This survey will start this month (October 2007) and stay active for roughly six weeks. The purpose of this study is to examine newspaper editors' use of features on online newspapers and blogs, their perceptions about credibility, professional media and citizen journalists' role conceptions, and civic and community engagement patterns.

The organizers encourage your participation in this study as this project seeks to invigorate the bond between community newspapers and their audiences in rural Kentucky. In particular, it will shed light on how to better equip rural newspapers with tools that allow readers to expand their news consumption experience and become more active citizens.

In addition, preliminary findings will be presented at the

See PEOPLE on Page 12

A year after changing publishing schedule,

Papers adjust to the daily show

BY JOHN WHITLOCK
KPA NEWS BUREAU

It is one of those events rarely seen in newspapers these days - switching to daily publication.

But two Kentucky papers, the Georgetown News-Graphic and the Appalachian News-Express in Pikeville, bucked the trend and shifted to daily publication in the past 14 months.

For each paper, the change has proven to be the right one.

With the continued growth of Scott County, Georgetown News-Graphic Publisher Mike Scogin said the move from three days a week to six days was a successful one.

"It was a perfect move," Scogin said of going daily on Aug. 15, 2006. "We went through the normal ups and downs but the community has embraced the change and soon after, the advertising community embraced us."

Scogin said the decision to move the paper from a weekly publishing schedule to a daily didn't come overnight and was the culmination of many different elements.

"Every time I spoke to a civic organization, the issue came up," Scogin said. "Around June of 2006, we were looking at the landscape of Scott County and thought maybe we were ready. I felt like it was a good time for us to make that kind of move. It was a gut feeling."

Scogin's decision has not only affected the paper's staff, readers and advertisers, the move has had a position and lasting reaction in the



Scott County business community.

Scogin said he felt gratified recently when the developers of a giant regional shopping center announced one of the reasons they picked Georgetown for the new project was the fact that the community had a daily paper.

"They said one of the factors that helped them make the decision to locate here was that we had a daily newspaper," Scogin said. "When we were three days a week, the retailers might have a sale break on the days

we didn't publish. This (schedule) works out for our advertising clients and us."

The switch did not go without bumps.

"As we went into this, our newsroom had been pretty stable," Scogin said. "Our concentration was on other areas. We ended up having an almost 100 percent turnover. ...we ended up losing a lot of good people."

If others were interested in the

See DAILY on Page 4

PASSINGS

Former Courier-Journal, Wall Street Journal reporter Robert Deitz passes away

Robert Deitz, 67, a long-time Texas and Kentucky journalist, editor and author, passed way, Sept. 15 of complications of brain cancer.

He began his career as a reporter in Lexington in 1962 and joined the Louisville Courier-Journal in November 1963 where he was political reporter, editorial writer, senior editor in the Sunday news analysis sections, director of public relations and executive editor of the newspaper's book publishing division.

Later in his career, Deitz was a free-lance writer whose articles appeared in The Wall Street Journal, Business Week, and numerous in-flight airline magazines and banking industry publications. He also was author or co-author of several non-fiction books on topics ranging from the savings and loan and energy industries to the Rodney King incident in Los Angeles.

Former Herald-Leader staffer passes away

Mary Porter Leistner, 81, a native of Georgetown, passed away July 12, in Oregon.

She graduated from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's degree in journalism and worked as a reporter for the Lexington Herald and the Lorain Journal in Ohio.

Funeral services were held at the Musgrove Family Mortuary in Oregon.

Former Daily Independent editor passes away

Malcolm "Mick" Conley, 74, a former sports editor and journalist for the Ashland Daily Independent, passed away Sept. 1 at his home.

Conley worked for the Independent for nearly 50 years, retiring in 1998. Mike Reliford, editor and general manager of the Independent, said Conley was a "great teacher for young reporters."

Georgetown journalism figure passes away

John Sutterfield, 85, former owner and publisher of The Georgetown News and The Georgetown Times, died Sept. 30 at his home in Georgetown.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Dorothy Wollin Sutterfield. He graduated from Henry Clay High School and the University of Kentucky School of Journalism.

In 1950, he bought the Pahokee News in Pahokee, Fla. A few years later he bought The Georgetown News and The Georgetown Times which he published until 1978 when he retired after selling the newspapers to Scripps League Newspapers of San Mateo, Calif.

Retired Gleaner Simpson employee passes away

Doris E. Simpson, 72, of Henderson, passed away Aug. 24, at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, Ind.

She was retired from the Evansville Courier and Press and The Gleaner circulation department.

Funeral services were held at the Benton-Glunt Funeral Home with burial in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

Former Landmark bookkeeper passes away

Carolyn McClain Tipton, 81, passed away Aug. 26 in Shelbyville. She was a bookkeeper for 35 years with Landmark Community Newspapers.

Funeral services were held at the Shannon Funeral Home in Shelbyville.

THE KENTUCKY PRESS

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Papers step up and join KHSJA

It's a busy time of year as planning is well underway for the January 2008 KPA convention at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington. At the same time, the annual Kentucky High School Journalism Association membership drive is in full swing. And once again this year, Kentucky newspapers are helping mentor the next generation of journalists by sponsoring local high schools in KHSJA.

As of the third week of September – when this column was written – 58 schools have joined KHSJA for the 2007-08 school year. The membership drive continues through Oct. 31. Our goal is to sign up 110 schools – three more than our highest total so far.

Of the 58 members so far, local newspapers have sponsored 38 of them. That's a 66 percent sponsorship rate – outstanding! Kentucky papers are really doing their part, as they always have. Ever since KHSJA, founded 11 years ago by KPA, began accepting newspaper-paid sponsorships for schools, our state's publishers and editors have stepped up to the challenge.

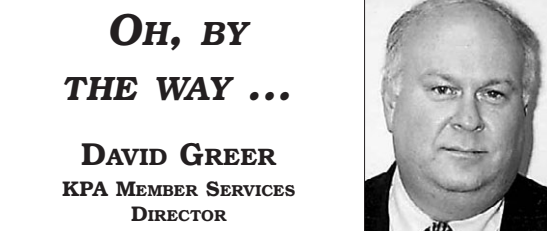
It's easy to do. Membership is just \$50 per school per school year. Membership permits schools to attend KHSJA workshops, compete in the annual statewide high school journalism contest and attend the annual state convention. Attendance typically runs 700 to 800 at the convention.

The \$50 per school sponsorship can be paid one of three ways:

- Send us a check
- Ask us to bill you
- Ask us to deduct the amount from your next KPS ad revenue check – no need to even cut a check. We can take care of it here at KPA.

Even though we have a sponsor form for member papers to complete, the truth is we're flexible. Call me at (800) 264-5721 or e-mail me via dgreer@kypress.com, tell me what you want

to do and I'll even complete the sponsorship form for you and submit it to the KPA accounting department. Hmm, no need to send a check and someone will complete the paperwork for you – it doesn't get much easier.



**OH, BY
THE WAY ...**

DAVID GREER
KPA MEMBER SERVICES
DIRECTOR

Winter convention will feature sports workshop

The KPA News Editorial Division Steering Committee has recommended having at least one sports-oriented breakout session at the KPA convention in Lexington on Jan. 25. But the committee is looking for feedback from sports editors and reporters about what type of workshop(s) they would find most beneficial.

We'd like feedback, ideas and suggestions. They can send their thoughts to me at dgreer@kypress.com.

Sometimes publishers and editors tell me they would like to sponsor their local high school but the school doesn't have a student newspaper. OK, that's true of some schools. But nearly every school publishes a yearbook and it's compiled by a student staff and advised by a teacher. The only

advertisers would not be significant if it was handled correctly.

"People like a smaller size as long as it is legible and easy to read," he told E&P. "If the type is carefully handled, readers don't care. Designers don't like it because it upsets all of the visual proportions. But people don't perceive they are getting a lesser product, a smaller paper to them is a value."

Ryan had no specifics on cost savings from such cutbacks, but stressed that each market is different based on production capabilities and design. He also pointed out that a switch from 48-inch web to 44-inch web requires more production changes than a switch from 52-inch to 48-inch.

Newspaper Designer Alan Jacobson of Brass Tacks Design in Norfolk, Va., acknowledged that the 44-inch Web is a first among U.S. newspapers. But he said the impact on readers and

real difference between a yearbook and a paper, for example, is the frequency of publication. While yearbooks might not be exactly the same kind of journalism practiced at newspapers, all the basic elements are there – stories, photos, cut-lines, design, the desire to tell stories and package information in an attractive way. Yes, student journalists produce yearbooks.

And I've seen schools with award-winning yearbooks in the annual KHSJA contest then expand their expertise into publishing a student newspaper. One just never knows the role KHSJA membership might play in motivating students, teachers and administrators to expand their journalism offerings.

KHSJA SPONSORS. These KPA member papers have sponsored local schools this year in KHSJA:

Kentucky New Era, 7 schools sponsored
Advocate-Messenger, 7 schools sponsored
News-Enterprise, 5 schools
Ashland Independent, 4 schools
Oldham Era, 3 schools
The Kentucky Standard, 3 schools
Central Kentucky News-Journal, 2 schools
Citizen Voice & Times, 1 school
Clay City Times, 1 school
Woodford Sun, 1 school
Carlisle Mercury, 1 school
Georgetown News-Graphic, 1 school
Flemingsburg Gazette, 1 school
The Record, Leitchfield, 1 school
Meade County Messenger, 1 school

The papers sponsoring the most schools will be recognized at the January convention.

Remember, just call or e-mail me about sponsoring one or more local schools. You'll never even miss the money and I'll do the paperwork for you. What a deal.

Gannett planning paper size reduction at several locations

BY JOE STRUPP
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

After completing a two-year conversion of its 85 daily papers from 52-inch web size to 48-inch, Gannett Co. Inc. is conducting a national review for a possible second size cut to 44-inch web.

The Visalia (Calif.) Times-Delta, a 23,174-daily circulation Gannett paper, already made the cutback in August, reducing its size to the 44-inch web, and plans are in the works to make similar changes soon at The Salinas (Calif.) Californian and The Spectrum in St. George, Utah, according to Austin Ryan, vice president/production for Gannett.

"I think the decision has been made, but I don't know what are the conversion dates," he

said of the Salinas and St. George properties. "We are looking at each market on their own and trying to see what makes sense for each one."

Ryan said the smaller size may well be seen in larger markets, noting that The Indianapolis Star and The Courier-Journal in Louisville are among the most likely candidates for a web reduction. "If they convert, it would be the first half of next year," he said of the larger papers.

The 44-inch size would be a dramatic change, especially since it would make each page size 11 inches by 22 inches, meaning the width would be half the length.

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advertisers would not be significant if it was handled correctly.

"People like a smaller size as long as it is legible and easy to read," he told E&P. "If the type is carefully handled, readers don't care. Designers don't like it because it upsets all of the visual proportions. But people don't perceive they are getting a lesser product, a smaller paper to them is a value."

Ryan had no specifics on cost savings from such cutbacks, but stressed that each market is different based on production capabilities and design. He also pointed out that a switch from 48-inch web to 44-inch web requires more production changes than a switch from 52-inch to 48-inch.

Be extra careful of election season

This is an interesting time for journalists.

It's one of those times that even more diligence is required, when we all need to be careful about the stories we decide to write, the sources we use and the angles we see.

You see, it's election time again and almost every politician wants to use you.

Sometimes, the transparency of a politician's ploy is blatant. In some instances, it's the magistrate who curses the paper's perceived bias and refuses to speak on the record but suddenly as Election Day draws near, wants to become a trusted source on the inner crooked dealings of his opponents.

Other times, it's harder to see the attempted manipulation.

Late last month, a friend of mine who edits a weekly paper called me up to chat about an e-mail he had received from a member of the General Assembly blasting his county's share of Homeland Security funds.

In the lawmaker's e-mail, he pointed out that Gov. Ernie Fletcher's administration is in charge of dividing up the federal funding. Fletcher, who happens to be a member of a different political organization than the lawmaker in question, is also running for re-election.

The lawmaker, who had never contacted my editor friend before, said it was injustice that his community had only been given a few thousand while communities of similar size had received upwards of \$500,000. The lawmaker vowed to get to the bottom of this issue and wanted an investigation.

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JOHN WHITLOCK
KPA News
BUREAU DIRECTOR



On face value, it seems like a fairly legitimate gripe and would probably be worthy of a story on at least how the money is distributed.

But for a weekly paper with a limited staff dedicated to community journalism, it would be pretty hard to put together a complete story in a timely manner.

But the main concern for my friend was how to handle the issue without simply cranking out a story potentially damaging to an official without the resources to find out all the details.

Now, very few good sources don't have their own agenda. There's no way around that. It could be anything from a political axe to grind, self-promotion or just a sense of public advocacy.

Whether it's an off-the-record discussion before a meeting or casual conversation in the line at Wal-Mart, journalists must always question the motivations of a source.

When evaluating a source, the primary issue is usually do they offer a compelling story of public interest that needs to be told and can be backed up. The question of what does this person have to

gain is generally a consideration but during election time, the issue gains a lot of weight.

It's up to us - the gatekeepers - to figure out who is saying what, when, where and possibly most importantly - why.

Of course, having a member of the public call up with a story idea is rarely a bad thing, as long it doesn't involve alien abductions, the CIA and satellite-based mind control ray guns.

In this instance, the story should be done but done properly without haste or on the timetable desired by one of the sources.

After discussing the problem for a few minutes, we agreed the best place for the lawmaker to vent his anger would probably be on the editorial page for now.

For the most part, when a source contacts you for the first time, there should be a great degree of caution.

In this era of political spin, reputable reporters have an even more pressing obligation, if not an out and out duty, to be suspicious of a politician's motivations.

The ultimate goal of a bad source may not be to get a story published against a foe. In a close race, just having your political opponent think a damaging story, real or fictitious, is getting investigated by a reporter is enough to create a significant amount of distraction.

So what are we to do - torn between our hesitation and obligation?

Like almost every issue in journalism, we have to investigate it and try and find the truth.

DAILY

Continued from page 1

shift, Scogin would advise publishers to be aware of how much the change will affect people.

"A change like this has a lot of impact in their lives," Scogin said. "You have to look at it as a whole."

For the most part, Scogin said, the employees "embraced" the change.

"There is a learning curve," Scogin said. "You have to learn to function as a daily."

The idea of functioning as a daily was one of the biggest issues Rachel Stanley, editor of the Appalachian News-Express, said she encountered when her paper went into daily production last year.

"For us, the biggest change was adjusting to the deadlines," Stanley said. "We no longer had the luxury of being able to get a story ready in two or three days. If a reporter is at a school board meeting, they have to come right back and immediately write that."

Stanley found at least one advantage to the increased publishing schedule - more scoops.

"We're very competitive," Stanley said. "It's been good for the paper in terms of content. We cover just about everything that happens."

With the additional publishing days, Stanley said the paper took on additional staff.

"I have to hand it to our company," Stanley said of Lancaster Newspapers. "The week we changed, we had two new full-time reporters and a part-time position was changed to full time. They hired the staff we needed."

Jeff Vanderbeck, who served as general manager of the Pikeville paper at the time of its switch but is now the publisher, said despite some anger related to a price increase connected to the change, the public has adjusted to the new schedule.

"From a market and news perspective, we could handle more news and editions and put out the new papers," Vanderbeck said.

Despite the slight backlash, Vanderbeck called the shift an "overwhelming" success.

"We knew it would be a difficult transition for some people," Vanderbeck said. "That's why we decided to beef up editorial. The community wants more local and almost everything is local now."

Vanderbeck said he and former publisher Marty Backus worked together to outline the changes.

"We had a game plan," Vanderbeck said. "We have a lot of advice for anyone considering this. The main thing is to have a good plan and a lot of patience. It's take a year for everyone to understand it. It's a lot, a lot of work."

Vanderbeck said the paper's staff is also learning as they become more accustomed to the change.

"At first, we believed that it would really only affect one or two departments. We quickly learned that it affects the entire organization - from the publisher to the person who answers the phones," Vanderbeck said. "The pace is much quicker. It worked out real well."

Scogin also says the change is a successful one.

"I have to admit, I ask myself and others if it was a good move," Scogin said. "Almost everyone agrees. It was the right move for us. It was a huge decision, pretty gutsy for the market. Some people in the newspaper business are prone to feel sorry for themselves and may not see some of the opportunities."

Hail to the chief

Kentuckian David Paxton named president of the Southern Newspaper Publisher Association



BY JOHN WHITLOCK
KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWS BUREAU

A well-known figure in Kentucky journalism has taken the reins as the new president of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association.

David Paxton, publisher of the Paducah Sun and president and CEO of Paxton Media Group, has been named president of the SNPA.

Paxton said SNPA has been serving southern newspapers for over 100 years and expects the organization to continue to change and serve the needs of its membership.

"Its role continues to evolve, but SNPA continues to be successful by bringing together people with shared interests and goals, and helping them to be more successful," Paxton said.

As the industry itself continues to evolve, Paxton said the digital age and the Internet do not spell necessarily spell disaster for the American newspaper industry.

"Changing technology, particularly the emergence of the Internet as a major source of news and information, offers perhaps the greatest opportunity as well as the biggest challenge for our industry," Paxton said. "Newspapers, already the dominant source of local news and

information, have the opportunity to greatly expand reach and readership."

Successfully bringing people and advertising to newspapers, Paxton said, will be the biggest hurdle for the industry.

The challenge for newspapers, as an advertising-supported medium, is to successfully migrate advertisers and ad spending along with readers -- or perhaps users is the better term -- in our increasingly multi-media environment, Paxton said.

Although some national organizations may be more effective taking on some of the heavy lifting of lobbying and promoting the industry's needs on the federal level, state and regional groups, such as SNPA, are better suited for dealing with local issues, Paxton said.

Because SNPA includes representatives from 14 states, many of the problems and challenges faced and addressed by the group are relatable throughout much of the membership, Paxton said.

The geographical make up of the organization helps the membership relate to each other and tackle similar challenges and situations.

"Though I've always thought we Kentuckians can function just fine on either side of the

Mason-Dixon line, culturally, SNPA seems a natural fit for us," Paxton said.

Although Paxton was elected president, he will not be the only Kentuckian on the SNPA board. Scott Schurz, publisher of the Advocate-Messenger of Danville, has joined the board to replace Taylor Hayes, publisher and CEO of Kentucky New Era in Hopkinsville.

During his tenure, Paxton said he would like to continue the long tradition established by his predecessors by promoting journalism and helping to make publishing a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

"My goal for SNPA is that it continue to evolve and be successful by adhering to our mission: Making Southern Publishers Successful," Paxton said. "We'll continue to focus on meetings and services that have proven value to our members - The Traveling Campus; targeted meetings focused on marketing, readership, smaller market issues; salary and benefit surveys, and seminars and webinars on timely topics - while expanding our efforts to build connections among southern publishers by hosting cost effective publisher forums across the region."

Exhibit will spotlight Kentucky photographers' work

At the 2008 KPA Winter Convention, which will be held Jan. 24-25 at the Marriott Resort at Griffin Gate in Lexington, the Kentucky Press Association will display photos from Kentucky newspapers that were taken in 2007.

These photos will be on display during the trade show and the exhibit will be available for local use, such as public libraries for instance, after the convention ends Jan. 25.

Kentucky is known for having some of the best newspaper photographers in the country and this is the KPA's way of displaying some of the work of this photographers.

This is not a contest and most of the photos submitted will be used in the exhibit depending on space available.

Photos may be in color or black and white; should be no larger than 11X14; should be mounted, preferably on black poster board.

The photo should be affixed to the poster board along with the name of the newspaper and the photographers name and a cutline if appropriate.

The photos in the display are not require to have been published in a newspaper.

The deadline for sending photos for the KPA

Photo Exhibit is Dec. 12.

If your newspaper would be interested in displaying this exhibit after the convention, please contact Bonnie Howard at 800-264-5721 or by email at bflower@kypress.com

Mail your photo exhibit pictures to David T. Thompson, Kentucky Press Association, 101 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, Ky., 40601.

Please indicate on a cover memo that the photographs are being submitted for the KPA Photo Exhibit.

The deadline is Dec. 12.

Meet the KPA/KPS Board of Directors

BREAKING CEILINGS

Female members of Kentucky journalism community face different challenges

JAMIE SIZEMORE

Circulation Chairwoman

Name: Jamie Sizemore

Birthday: March 23, 1963

Position/Title: Circulation Manager with The News-Enterprise

How long held: seven years

Duties, responsibilities of position: Oversee the newspaper sales and distribution of The News-Enterprise, Turret, and other Central Kentucky free distribution products.

Previous professional experience in and outside of newspaper industry: I was named the Newspaper Association of America's 2006 Sales Executive of the Year for Circulation 150,000 and under. I was also awarded the Herald Award in the same year for outstanding contributions in journalism from Western Kentucky University's award winning student publication, The College Heights Herald. I have spent my entire 21-year newspaper career with Landmark Community Newspapers Inc. after graduation from Western Kentucky University. I started in advertising sales at The Galax (Va.) Gazette and was promoted to general manager of two weeklies in suburban Baltimore. A year later I moved to Kingston, Tenn. to lead the advertising department of the Roane Newspapers Group. In 1992, I became advertising manager at The News-Enterprise, a 17,500-circulation daily. In 1997, I was named New Ventures Manager to direct online, stand-alone publication development and local contracted cable advertising. In 2000, I became circulation manager. I currently serve as the Circulation Division Chair for Kentucky Press Association.

Education: 1985 graduate of Western Kentucky University and 1981 graduate of Edmonson County High School

Family: I've been married to Toney Sizemore for 18 years. We have two teenage sons, Grayson, 17, and Corbin, 16.

Civic Clubs/Organizations: Currently I am involved in the Lincoln Heritage Council International Reading Association board member, commit-



tee member for Boys Scouts of America, Troop 829, Vice President of Central Hardin High School Golf Boosters and Central Hardin High School Football Boosters. Basically anything my sons are involved in. In the past I have been involved with the United Way, American Heart Association, the Rotary Club- Elizabethtown Chapter, Hardin County Education Foundation and the Elizabethtown Downtown Association.

Goals for KPA: As the newspaper industry continues to be challenged, KPA should lead the effort in providing good information and support to its newspaper members. This will be critical as newspaper management teams will be forced to change quickly in order to compete.

Views on future of newspapers: We really must stop looking at ourselves as strictly newspapers. We are powerful information providers that must continue to diversify both our print and online products. As an industry we must reinvent ourselves quickly and package the same information in multiple ways to meet the individual needs of consumers.

Has being a woman affected your career and if so, how: Being a woman has definitely affected my career in two distinct ways. First, newspaper management has traditionally been male dominated. I was very fortunate 21 years ago to land with a newspaper company, Landmark Community Newspapers Inc. that truly supported women in management. As an eager career-minded young woman, I moved into management only one year after joining the company and the opportunities have been tremendous. I've never once felt that my gender has kept me from pursuing a career opportunity with Landmark. However, working within the industry has posed challenges at times. Many times I felt I had to prove myself or infiltrate the good ole boy networks in order to get things accomplished. I have never let either of these stop me and I hope I've made it easier for women who seek management roles. The other way it has affected my career is simply finding balance between being a good mother and having a career. Many times in my career I have turned down opportunities because it wasn't a good fit for my sons. Do I have any regrets? Absolutely not!

When I started in this business in 1981, our operation did not have computers. It would be nine years later before they turned our production upside down and that took some getting used to. I thought that was the biggest change, but the Internet, by far, has had the biggest impact on newspapers. Those of us in the weekly business will have to get into the mindset of a daily and use our Web sites more efficiently. I know I'm guilty of not taking advantage of mine enough.

DONNA CARMAN

District 12



Name: Donna Carman

Birthday: Oct. 9, 1958

Newspaper: The Casey County News

Position/Title: Editor

How long held: I've been editor for nine years, but I've worked at this newspaper for 26 years.

Duties, responsibilities of position: I am responsible for the editorial content of the paper, assigning stories, writing and reporting myself, along with supervising a full-time staff writer, a part-time sports writer, and a correspondent. Besides writing and reporting, I also take photos; write a column for the opinion page every week; do most of the editorials; compile a weekly "Around the Area" section featuring stories from the seven surrounding counties; and lay out the front and opinion pages. Also work on special sections when we have them.

Previous professional experience in and outside of newspaper industry: I joined the staff of The Casey County News in June 1981 as a typesetter and circulation manager. This was before our operation had computers and the typesetting was done on a Compugraphic machine, while the circulation files were maintained with a card system. I wrote a few feature stories and columns, but it was January 1992 before I became a regular staff writer and photographer. I also maintained the circulation manager's position and was the Newspapers In Education coordinator. I gave up those positions when I became editor in July 1998.

Education: 1976 graduate of Casey County High School and Casey County Area Technology Center.

Family: Husband, Jeff; three sons, Craig (and daughter-in-law Joy), Chad and Chris; two grandsons, Sidney and Devan.

Civic Clubs/Organizations: Member and past secretary of Casey County ASAP (Agency for Substance Abuse Policy) board; member of Casey County Extension Council and Liberty/Casey County Chamber of Commerce; assistant primary teacher at Middleburg Baptist Church.

Views on future of newspapers: I don't think newspapers will ever "go out of style," but I do believe they will have to change and adapt as the world changes.

Laws catching up with new methods

The News Media & Libel Quarterly Journal (Summer Edition) published a story entitled "Messages or meetings?" concerning open meeting laws and how they apply to public officials who communicate through instant messages. This story caught my eye as this issue occasionally pops up on the hotline--reporters calling to ask what to do when they believe their city council members (or any public agency officials) are communicating about city business over e-mails or instant messages.

The story highlights the national debate over whether instant messages, teleconferences, videoconferences, and e-mails among public officials constitute an official meeting. Content of the messages has been a deciding factor for some states. For example, in Florida, the Attorney General distinguished between e-mails that discussed factual information versus responses and opinions. E-mails concerning only factual information would not violate open meetings laws. Similarly, Delaware's Attorney General held that only e-mails that concerned public business would constitute an open meeting. Missouri amended its public access laws to define a public meeting as any meeting by a majority of its members at which any public business is discussed, formulated or decided, specifically mentioning online chat rooms and message boards as examples of venues for public meetings.

Other states have focused on the "real-time" nature of the communication. For example, the Virginia Supreme Court has held that e-mail conversations among public officials does not constitute a meeting because it does not occur in real-time - some e-mails are not responded to or may take days for a response. Instant messaging, however, would be considered a meeting as real-time interaction occurs.

As with most states, Kentucky has not specifically addressed e-mails or instant messages. Our opinion is that any communication among a quorum of public officials concerning public business constitutes a meeting. In Kentucky, a "meeting" is defined as "[a]ll gatherings of every

From a legal standpoint

By *Jamie Cottrell*
KPA General Counsel
Dinsmore & Shohl

If you have any legal questions, call the KPA hotline attorneys:

Jon L. Fleischaker: 502-540-2319

R. Kenyon Meyer: 502-540-2325

Ashley C. Pack: 502-540-2385

Jeremy S. Rogers: 502-540-2384

.....

DINSMORE & SHOHL LLP

Switchboard: 502-540-2300

Facsimile: 502-585-2207

kind, including video teleconferences, regardless of where the meeting is held, and whether regular or special and information or casual gatherings held in anticipation of or in conjunction with a regular or special meeting." KRS 61.805(1). To constitute a meeting, a quorum must be present. 93-OMD-63. While the Open Records Act does not specifically address e-mails and instant messages or chat rooms and message boards, nothing in the Act's language prohibits an interpretation that these methods of communication are covered by the existing language. Thus, communication among a quorum of members concerning public business, whether it be by e-mail, instant message or chat rooms would constitute a public meeting to which the public can attend.

On a related note, the Attorney General has held that e-mailing notices of special meetings does not comply with the Open Meetings Act--the written notice must be delivered personally, transmitted by fax, or mailed to every media organization that has filed a written request for notice of such meetings. KRS 61.823.

The other interesting topic is whether e-mails are public records and the public agency's retention policy concerning electronic communications. It is fairly well-settled that e-mails are public records. (Although as a side note, Representative Rob Wilkey, in the 2006 legislative session, proposed a bill that would exempt e-mails to legislators from the Open Records Act. After a deluge of highly critical editorials from "Ashland to Paducah", Representative Wilkey opted not to push the bill, however, he promised he would propose it again in the future). Courts and Attorney Generals have drawn distinctions between e-mails discussing public business and personal business. The Colorado Supreme Court found that sexually explicit and romantic e-mails sent by public officials were not within the scope of Colorado open record laws. The Kentucky Attorney General has likewise drawn a distinction between personal e-mails and e-mails discussing public business and allowed only the disclosure of e-mails concerning public business.

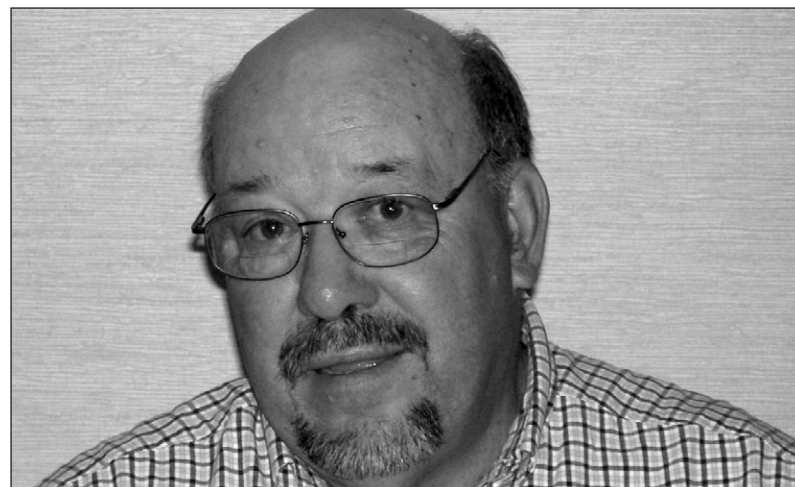
Assuming e-mails and instant messages are in fact, public records, and subject to the Open Records Act, retention becomes the issue. As you know, e-mails can be recovered even if deleted or double-deleted. A good question for a public agency when requesting e-mail records is to ask for the agency's e-mail retention policy. Instant messages, on the other hand, are not "retained" in an inbox - but are still stored on the computer and backed-up on the public agency's server and can be recovered - although at a cost. We will likely see retention issues surface as more public agencies conduct business in accordance with new technological advances.

As always, if you have any questions, call your hotline attorneys.

SAYING GOODBYE

Joel Wilson, the long-time editor of The Glasgow Daily Times, has retired after 50 years. He served the last four as editor emeritus. Before that, Wilson served as editor for more than 40 years. Wilson began work at the Daily Times in 1957 for owner and publisher Carroll Knicely and worked for two corporations and several publishers. He managed the paper's daily reporting on Glasgow and Barren County.

Photo submitted



New communication challenges laws

Computer technology will continue to shake up media law, attorneys say

HERALD-LEADER STAFF REPORT
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION

Bloggers have a lot in common with America's first "journalists" — those Colonial pamphleteers whose opinions the First Amendment's authors wanted to protect, four media lawyers told University of Kentucky students on Wednesday.

But Internet technology and the ways citizens use it have brought uncertainty to how media law will be interpreted in the future, the lawyers said during a panel discussion at W.T. Young Library sponsored by UK journalism school's First Amendment Center.

More than a decade ago, Congress gave Internet companies broad legal protection from libel and defamation for opinions that others express on their Web sites. The goal was to promote new technology and foster free speech.

"Millions of people are now comfortable with the give and take that goes on on the Web," said David M. Giles, associate general counsel for Cincinnati-based E.W. Scripps Co., which owns newspapers and television properties. Efforts to curb those freedoms now would surely meet with public backlash, he said.

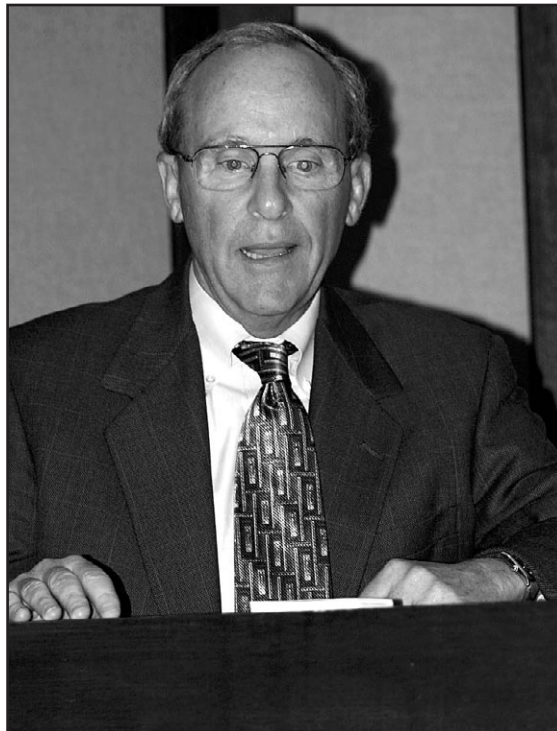
But courts will continue to struggle with questions about the appropriate responsibilities and protections of journalists, bloggers and citizens posting online comments.

"As a journalist or a blogger, you don't know where the line is," said Monica Dias, a media lawyer with the Frost Brown Todd law firm in Cincinnati.

Journalists writing online must be especially careful to be accurate and fair, Dias said, because editing is often less rigorous than for print publications.

But Jon Fleischaker of the firm Dinsmore & Shohl in Louisville, whose clients include the Kentucky Press Association and the Courier-Journal, thinks the issue of media bias has become overblown, and that advocacy journalism still has a place in society, as it has since Colonial times.

"We've gotten too far into fair and balanced," Fleischaker said. "We don't allow real truths to come out. We've got to tell both sides of the story, even if one side of the story is total



Above: Internet technology, media law and the public were the topics of discussion at a recent First Amendment panel held at the W.T. Young Library in September. The panel featured (from left to right) Richard Labunski, a lawyer who teaches journalism at UK, Jon Fleischaker of Dinsmore & Shohl in Louisville, Monica Dias, a media lawyer with the Frost Brown Todd law firm in Cincinnati and David M. Giles, associate general counsel for Cincinnati-based E.W. Scripps Co. The event was sponsored by the University of Kentucky journalism school's First Amendment Center. Left: During the First Amendment Center's annual "state of the First Amendment" lecture, Fleischaker was given the school's James Madison Award for his contributions to furthering First Amendment freedoms.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. BETH BARNES
PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

B.S."

Richard Labunski, a lawyer who teaches journalism at UK, said the Internet and talk radio have helped foster more discussion and debate. But they also have confused the public about the role of objective reporters as compared to bloggers and talk radio hosts.

"People somehow mix up (conservative talk

radio host) Sean Hanity and reporters for traditional media," he said.

On Tuesday night, Giles gave the First Amendment Center's annual "state of the First Amendment" lecture at UK, at which Fleischaker was given the school's James Madison Award for his contributions to furthering First Amendment freedoms.

In the opinion of the Attorney General ...

Termination, conclusion not the same

The Attorney General's office has upheld a decision to withhold records connected to the Executive Branch Ethics Commission's preliminary investigation of Gov. Ernie Fletcher.

At issue in this appeal is whether the Executive Branch Ethics Commission violated the Kentucky Open Records Act in denying the request of Courier-Journal reporter Tom Loftus for "a copy of any and all records which record each commissioner's vote in terminating the commission's preliminary investigation of Gov. Ernie Fletcher."

In failing to initially provide detailed and particular information, as required by state law, the Commission violated the act. However, the Commission belatedly satisfied its burden of proof under state law by citing the applicable exceptions and briefly explaining how it applies.

The A.G.'s office ultimately agreed with the Commission's denial.

The Courier-Journal also alleges a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

However, the A.G.'s office is prevented from rendering a decision on this issue because the allegation was not handled in accordance with state regulations that requires the agency be notified of the charge and possible solutions.

The Courier-Journal has provided no indication it has ever submitted a written complaint to the presiding officer of the the Executive Ethics Commission concerning the manner in which the vote to terminate the investigation of Fletcher was taken. Therefore, the A.G.'s office cannot rule on the alleged violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Following the request, general counsel John R. Steffen advised Loftus that he was unable to comply with the request because the records are exempt from disclosure under state law although he gave no explanation of how the statutes applied.

Jon Fleischaker, on behalf of the Courier-Journal, said that regardless of how the laws are interpreted, the Commission had come to a final decision concerning the investigation and should now be obliged to turn over the records for public inspection.

Fleischaker argued that in addition to the "general mandate of disclosure" applies to the Commission's final decision and that the minutes of actions taken at every meeting of a public agency, which is required under state law, must be open to the public.

In his response to the A.G.'s office, Steffen said the results of the preliminary investigation had been released by Fletcher and the other records related to the case could be withheld because they are connected to a preliminary investigation and not a formal, public investigation.

Steffen said records concerning such investigations are exempt from disclosure except for a few narrow exceptions.

In his response, Steffen cited state law that reads "all commission proceedings and records related to a preliminary investigation shall be confidential until a final determination is made by the commission."

When viewed in conjunction with other state law pursuant to which the Commission terminated the preliminary investigation of Fletcher and initially denied Loftus' request, the decision to withhold the records was upheld.

The A.G.'s office wrote "as correctly argued by Mr. Steffen, this office previously resolved a similar issue in favor of the Commission and disclosure of the records can be prohibited until a final decision is made under state law.

The A.G.'s office also upheld the Commission's ruling that the investigation was in the preliminary stages and records from that effort could be withheld under state law.

Nominations being accepted for community service award

Each year, the Lexington Herald-Leader honors a newspaper person, or a newspaper staff, by presenting its Community Service Award. The award was renamed the Lewis Owens Community Service Award in 1996.

Presented annually by the Lexington Herald-Leader, the award recognizes outstanding community service by a Kentucky newspaper person or staff. The award was originally established in memory of Edwards M. Templin, promotion director of the Lexington Herald-Leader and president elect of the Kentucky Press Association when he died in 1967. It was later renamed to honor and memorialize Lewis Owens for his many years of service to community and service organizations and to Kentucky's newspaper industry.

Previous recipients include the staff of the Falmouth Outlook, Merv Aubespain, Tom and Pat Gish, Russ Metz, Max Heath, Betty Berryman, Louise Hatmaker, David McBride, Don Towles, Niles Dillingham, Floe Bowles, John B. and Ray Gaines, Fred Paxton, among several others.

The award will be presented in January at our 2008 Kentucky Press Association Winter Convention at the Marriott Resort in Lexington.

The deadline for nominations is Nov. 15.

If you wish to nominate someone for this award, write a letter of nomination detailing the individual's service to the community and mail by Nov. 15, to: Tom Caudill, Lexington Herald-Leader, 100 Midland Avenue, Lexington, Ky., 40508

A list of previous recipients is printed in the 2007 KPA Yearbook and Directory.

High school principal apologizes for banning Winchester sports editor from press box

WINCHESTER SUN STAFF REPORT

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION

George Rogers Clark High School Principal Gordon Parido has apologized to The Winchester Sun for banning its sports editor, Keith Taylor, from the press box at Friday night's homecoming game.

Parido was upset because of a front-page story about a racial incident at the high school that occurred in late August. Four white students were arrested and charged with terroristic threatening for giving a black student a note with crude drawings depicting the lynching of a black person. The story was accompanied by a picture of the note.

In retaliation against the newspaper, the principal

barred Taylor from being in the press box, but not from covering the game, as a Lexington television station reported. Taylor learned about the ban not from Parido, but from Jackie McCloud, the athletics director.

On Monday, Parido called managing editor Randall Patrick to apologize for banning Taylor from the game and for taking "the tone" he did. He said that Superintendent Dr. Ed Musgrove informed him that he did not have the authority to ban Taylor in the first place.

Parido said he also intended to personally apologize to Taylor.

The principal maintains that the story was inaccurate, but has twice declined to say what the inaccuracies were.

Johnson breaks ground as KPA president

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission from the summer 2007 issue of NAA Foundation Update, the quarterly magazine of the Newspaper Association of America Foundation.

BY KIERSTEN TIMPE
THE READING (PA.) EAGLE

Sixteen years ago, Kriss Johnson took her first job at a newspaper. This year, she's working for 146 of them.

Johnson currently is president of the Kentucky Press Association, a position in which she serves the daily and weekly newspapers in the Bluegrass State.

Over the past 16 years, she has taken a whirlwind tour of the newspaper industry, using her experiences as a former educator and current NIE outreach manager to bring a new focus to the KPA.

Her first newspaper job came in 1991 as NIE coordinator for The Greeley (Colo.) Tribune.

"When I first started, I had no knowledge of the newspaper industry. I was a teacher before that," Johnson recalls. "Working at a small paper enabled me to be involved in all the departments."

During her six years at the Tribune, she worked alongside the editorial, advertising, production and distribution staffs.

"We could get experience with all the business sides of it," she says. "It really helped me get well-rounded as far as my knowledge base of newspapers as a whole, and how all the different departments are important for keeping the newspaper going as a business."

In 1997, Johnson moved to Kentucky to serve as NIE outreach manager for the Lexington Herald-Leader. Building upon her classroom experience, she became instrumental in helping the KPA start a statewide literacy project involving serials. The KPA offers a free, 10-chapter story to any newspaper willing to devote a quarter-page of weekly space. Newspapers are distributed to classrooms along with scrapbooks students can use week by week to collect the

"I'm the eighth woman to ever be KPA president and I'm the first NIE coordinator to be a press association president. It's a real honor to have the Kentucky papers put their trust in me."

KRISS JOHNSON
NIE OUTREACH MANAGER, LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER AND PRESIDENT OF THE KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION



entire story.

"It has really been good for the newspapers for growing their youth readership," Johnson says. "We started with 30 newspapers, and last year we were up to 85.

"We tell the teachers to use the newspaper more than one day," she notes. "Maybe one day, they just use the serial story; the next day, they use it for math activities. One paper can be a textbook for the whole week."

Johnson says her work with the literacy project is what led to her becoming KPA president. This year, she encouraged the KPA to use the serial to teach civic literacy.

"Another initiative is helping the public understand how our government works and the importance of voting," she adds.

As a result, the next installment of the series is "Mr. Dogwood Goes to Washington," which focuses on freedom, the Constitution and the history of the nation's capital. It is scheduled for release in September.

"We're hoping that by sharing this information with young readers, they will go home and train their parents in these issues," Johnson says.

In addition to the serial, the KPA devotes

more than \$200,000 a year to services such as lobbying, a freedom of information hotline, legal defense for newspapers and internships.

"Kentucky was the first state to develop an internship program to get youth in papers," Johnson says. "We have college students sign up to be interns, and place them with papers. The KPA pays the salaries for about 24 different students ... placed at papers each year."

As KPA president, Johnson guides the organization in providing these services and brings her unique perspective to the table.

"It's an exciting position to be in," she says. "I'm the eighth woman to ever be KPA president and I'm the first NIE coordinator to be a press association president. It's a real honor to have the Kentucky papers put their trust in me."

Kiersten Timpe represented the Reading (Pa.) Eagle as a teen fellow at the 2006 NAA Foundation Young Reader Conference in St. Louis.

Cover art needed for annual KPA newspaper directory

What better way to show a photographer's talent than on the front cover of the KPA Yearbook and Directory?

Each year, the KPA selects one four-color photograph or a montage from a photographer at a Kentucky newspaper and publish that on the front cover of the directory with appropriate credit given inside the directory.

Any photograph depicting life in Kentucky or a recent event in the commonwealth is considered and the photo does not have to have been published in a newspaper to be used on the directory's cover.

The deadline for submitting a four-color photograph for the front cover is Nov. 15.

Please indicate on a cover memo the photo is

being sent for consideration for the front cover of the KPA Yearbook and Directory, and include the newspaper and the photographer's name.

Mail your pictures for the front cover of the directory, photo deadline is Nov. 15, to: David T. Thompson, Kentucky Press Association, 101 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, Ky., 40601

PEOPLE

Continued from page 1

January 2008 convention.

The same team will jointly head a statewide online survey of online community news audiences, and will be contacting you for your help in this survey. We encourage you, when contacted, to sponsor a link, and possibly a pop up invitation, that would connect the users to the actual survey that will be hosted on a server at UK.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss details, please contact either the Principal Investigator, Dr. Seungahn Nah, Department of Community and Leadership Development, (seungahn.nah@uky.edu, 859-257-1509) or the Co-Principal Investigator, Dr. Deborah Chung, School of Journalism and Telecommunications (dchung@uky.edu, 859-257-3021).

Dan Sykes has been named executive vice president for **Landmark Community Newspapers Inc.**

He brings 19 years of experience with Landmark to the position. He began with the Virginian-Pilot in 1988 and served as distribution manager, pre-press manager, single-copy sales manager and classified ad manager.

Sykes also served as GM of **The Flagship**, a civilian military newspaper. He also did a stint as new ventures director for Landmark corporate and was also at Trader Publishing. He became president of Landmark Education Services in 2000.

He has an economics degree from Princeton University and a MBA from the Harvard Business School.

Cody Roberts has been named sports writer and photographer for the **Jackson County Sun**. He replaced **Connie Esh** covering sports for the paper.

Roberts is a graduate of Jackson County High School.

Peter Zubaty has joined the staff of **The Kentucky Standard** as sports editor.

Zubaty earned a journalism degree from Northern Kentucky University.

He has previously held positions at paper in LaGrange, Pikeville, Somerset and London.

Elizabeth Troutman is the newest member of the **Oldham Era** staff.

Troutman will be covering the Oldham County Fiscal Court and city government as well as writing community features.

She is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a joint degree in English and journalism.

Tom Spargur has been named publisher of the **Middlesboro Daily News**. He will oversee the Daily News and its affiliate publications, which include The Claiborne Progress in Tazewell, Tenn., and The Cumberland Trading Post in Middlesboro.

Previously, Spargur served as publisher of five **Womack Publishing Co.** weeklies in North Carolina and was the corporate advertising director for Womack properties. He succeeds **Gary Lawrence**, who will remain chief operating officer of **Heartland Publications LLC's** southern division.

Michelle McGuffin has been named classified advertising/Kentucky Classified manager at the **News-Enterprise** in Elizabethtown.

Her career at The News-Enterprise began in 1994. She is also a contributing member of The News-Enterprise editorial board.

The **Kentucky New Era** has hired a copy editor and a reporter.

Dana L. Long will serve as a copy editor and page designer while **Julia Hunter** will work as a reporter

Long worked as a photographer at the paper from 2000 to 2005 and most recently was a reporter and photographer in Tennessee.

Hunter, a graduate of the University of Southern Indiana with a degree in print journalism and a minor in political science, will be covering crime and courts for the Hopkinsville paper.

Edna Duggins, former editor of the **Grayson County News-Gazette**, has joined the staff of Hospice and Palliative Care of the Ohio Valley in Owensboro.

She has taken over the role of communications director.

Don't horse around and miss this opportunity



Advertising opportunities available in the 2008 KPA Yearbook and Directory.

Don't miss this chance to promote your newspaper to advertisers across the country. The Kentucky Press Association Directory, to be released January 2008, is a resource that is used throughout the year by potential advertisers including more than 175 agencies.

WE AT THE KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!

To reserve your space, please contact **Bonnie Howard** at 502-223-8821 or email at bfhoward@kypress.com