

The Tennessee Press

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No. 4

Young journalist gives prize money to help others

A young reporter who won a Pulitzer Prize and other awards for a series in the *Bristol Herald Courier* has donated \$10,000 in prize money to help other rural journalists get the same kind of training that enabled him to do his prize-winning work.

Daniel Gilbert and the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues (IRJCI) have created the Fund for Rural Computer-Assisted Reporting (CAR) to finance fellowships for rural journalists to attend the computer-assisted reporting boot camps of Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE).

The techniques Gilbert acquired at a CAR boot camp proved crucial in his reporting that exposed mismanagement of natural gas royalties owed to landowners in Southwest Virginia. The series in the *Bristol Herald Courier* won the 33,000-circulation newspaper the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service,

and earned Gilbert the \$10,000 prize for Community Journalism in the National Journalism Awards sponsored by the Scripps Howard Foundation.

Gilbert, 28, assigned the Scripps prize to the endowment of the IRJCI, based in the School of Journalism and Telecommunications at the University of Kentucky, Lexington. Gifts to the endowment through April 2011 are matched by the Research Challenge Trust Fund of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, so the Institute's Fund for Rural Computer-Assisted Reporting starts with \$20,000. Earnings from that amount will fund at least one fellowship per year for a rural journalist to attend a CAR boot camp, and IRE will discount the registration fee as part of the fellowship.

"It will be something of great benefit for communities that aren't served by major newspapers," Gilbert said.

"We hope others will follow Daniel's example and contribute to the Fund for R-CAR," said Al Cross, director of the Institute. "His generous donation is more than a lasting legacy to rural journalists. It is a reminder of the challenges they face—lack of resources, time and support—but also the opportunities they have, if given the right tools, to render great public service."

IRE Executive Director Mark Horvit said likewise: "Daniel and the Herald Courier showed that doing great work with major impact is not dependent on the size of a news organization. If smart, dedicated journalists are given the training and tools they need, anything is possible."

Gilbert, who is leaving Bristol for Houston to cover the oil and gas industry for *The Wall Street Journal*, announced the Fund for R-CAR in his



ELENORA E. EDWARDS | TPS
Gilbert

The CAR training enabled Gilbert to use data from the Virginia Division of Gas and Oil to compare gas production by well with royalty payments that had been paid into escrow because of disputes over ownership of the gas. The fund had grown to \$23 million, and Gilbert found that "Companies had not made any deposits at all into a significant number of accounts," he wrote in a story for the R-CAR website. "The subsequent articles, which combined data analysis with a year's worth of shoe-leather reporting, resulted in energy companies quickly depositing into escrow more than a million dollars in outstanding royalties. Lawmakers responded with legislation to facilitate the release of royalties in escrow to property owners, and state officials implemented measures to improve compliance."

The Scripps prize was the first earned by Gilbert's eight-part series. In accepting it, he said, "It's the Bristols of this country and the vast swaths of rural America that need good, watchdog, accountability reporting more than anywhere else." Speaking to an East Tennessee Society of Professional Journalists meeting at the Scripps Convergence Lab in the University of Tennessee Communications Building Sept. 23, he said, "When money from journalism comes along . . . it made sense to me to keep it in play."
(See a story by Gilbert on page 4.)

final article for the Herald Courier Sept. 26.

"Journalism in the public interest should spring from need, not from superior resources," he wrote. "Nowhere is this brand of reporting needed more than in rural areas, like Southwest Virginia, that are not covered in any depth by powerhouse media outlets. As the reach of these outlets continues to shrink, the watchdog role in rural communities increasingly falls to the local newspaper, television station and website."

Ownership statement must be published

Early October brings for those with periodicals permits the task of filing the annual Statement of Ownership form.

It should be filed with the postmaster and published in the newspaper during October. Dailies must publish it by Oct. 10 and non-dailies, by Oct. 31.

The two-page form is called P.S. Form 3526 Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation. One can download a PDF from www.usps.com/forms/pdf/ps3526.pdf.

The *Tennessee Press* statement is published on page 3.

Man with knife arrested at Crossville Chronicle

BY MICHAEL R. MOSER
Editor, Crossville Chronicle

Workplace violence came uncomfortably close to home the evening of Aug. 17 when a man armed with a knife entered the *Crossville Chronicle's* mail and pressroom and allegedly threatened employees, according to witnesses and an arrest report.

Quick response by Crossville police and, with weapons drawn, their disarming of the intruder ended the tense situation with no one being physically injured.

John Williams Lord, 45, a Crossville resident formerly of Georgia, was charged with two counts of felony aggravated assault, criminal trespass

and violation of an order of protection. Lord was placed under \$21,000 bond and remained jailed. A hearing was scheduled for Cumberland County General Sessions Court.

About a dozen workers in the Chronicle mail and pressroom were finishing up preparing the next day's newspaper for delivery to the post office shortly before 7 p.m. when a supervisor spotted a man standing outside a rear door to the business and asked if he needed help.

The man stated he was there to see an employee. The supervisor told the man to wait outside while she notified that person.

Instead of waiting, the man pushed past the supervisor and entered the mailroom work area where he allegedly

confronted a woman with whom he has two children but has not been in a relationship for eight years.

When the man ignored additional instructions to leave the building, the supervisor called 911 for police to respond.

Inside the mail room the man confronted the estranged girlfriend and others, during which he allegedly pulled a knife and made threats, witnesses told police.

Police were less than a block away and arrived to see a man inside the building holding a knife and making motions toward a female employee. After a few moments, the man dropped the knife and was taken into custody.

(Adapted)



(Left photo) TPA President Art Powers, publisher of the Johnson City Press, leads a meeting of the TPA Board of Directors. To his left are Jeff Fishman, The Tullahoma News, vice president for non-dailies; Michael Williams, The Paris Post-Intelligencer, vice president for dailies; and Victor Parkins, The Milan Mirror-Exchange, immediate past president. **(Right photo)** Members



ELENORA E. EDWARDS | TPS

of the Government Affairs Committee listen to discussion about a matter of concern. From left are Frank Trexler, The Daily Times, Maryville; Gregg K. Jones, Jones Media, Greenville; Victor Parkins, The Milan Mirror-Exchange; and Jeff Fishman, The Tullahoma News. Both groups met Sept. 24 in Knoxville.

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TPAers with suggestions, questions or comments about items in The Tennessee Press are welcome to contact the managing editor. Call Elenora E. Edwards, (865) 457-5459; send a note to P.O. Box 502, Clinton, TN 37717-0502; or e-mail ElenoraEdwards@Comcast.net. The deadline for the November issue is Oct. 11.

Doing a good job for your customers?

At the April TPA Advertising/Circulation Conference in Chattanooga, one of the most interesting, energetic and entertaining speakers you'll ever hear talked about sales techniques.

Tony Marsella, of Ranger Data, the creators of the new BooCoo Auction site, asked, "What do you do for your customers (subscribers)?" "NOTHING!!!" he shouted. To summarize, he said we sell subscriptions to our customers and all we ever do, short of delivering their paper on time, is take their money.

He's right. I've been doing that for years and years. His point is, we don't even know how long these customers have taken the paper, and we really don't realize just how important they are to us.

Try this exercise. Take your newspaper's total revenues for a year and divide by the number of newspapers you publish on an average each day or week. You'll quickly see that they are worth a great deal. I bet your advertising rates are even based on your paid circulation numbers.

Also, look at the obituaries you publish. These people are dying every day, and they are the most loyal readers you'll ever have. So much competition for time is taking away from our readership, but not our elder readers. They still love us and start every day with us. As for the weeklies, they can't wait for the next issue, to devour the local news, to see who has had a party or meeting or see who has a new recipe.

Tony is exactly right. We need to care for each and every one of our customers. How might you do this? Why not seek out your oldest subscriber? Identify and do something for those who have taken the newspaper for 20, 30, 40 or 50 years?

We've begun sending sympathy cards to the families of the recently deceased, expressing our condolences and enclosing a laminated copy of the obituary. It can often be a little time consuming but not that daunting a task.

Unfortunately, at our place we have no records of how long a person has taken the newspaper. But we're going to start asking our customers and finding some way to reward them. Perhaps it may be just a photo and quotes on why they have taken the paper for all these years and why they read it still. All this down home news still makes people happy, no matter how large the paper. We can't allow ourselves to get far from where the rubber meets the road.

We have begun new emphasis on customer service. All



YOUR PRESIDING REPORTER

Art Powers

our employees deal with customers. If a writer or accounting clerk gets a call, even mistakenly, he or she needs to take care of that caller like family. Treat customers as you want to be treated. If one is put on hold, do you or your people forget the caller, or do you make certain he has been satisfied? If a retail advertising sales person takes a circulation complaint call, how would your customer feel if you took his or her phone number and called the next day to see if the problem was solved? I know, I know, that's not his or her job, but if all our customer service rose to that level, we'd be the talk of the town.

Tony called it "Outrageous Customer Service"—doing something totally over the top for customers. Consider empowering employees to do something for those who aren't pleased when they call, offer a free classified ad or one or two weeks' free subscription extension. Whatever you choose would need to be policed, but that part is easy. The most important thing is to make your customer happy.

At our Tri-State Summer Convention in June, Charles Overby, chief executive officer of the Newseum in Washington, D.C., talked about The Four C's: Confidence, Content, Charge, Campaign. The sky is not falling, as he discussed confidence in our industry. We're not dying, just having a somewhat difficult time like everyone else in this recession. Content must not decline, and our news holes must remain strong. Charging for our content online is necessary if we are to ever make money online.

And Campaign...ah, that's what I've been talking about. Overby says, "You are asking the reader to vote for your newspaper every day. You're not necessarily asking the reader to like your newspaper every day, although a little bit of that wouldn't hurt. You are asking the reader to recognize and appreciate the value of your newspaper every day." Keeping our readers satisfied enough to vote every day for us is a tough job, but we can and will be successful.

Let's tell our story and keep our customers coming back because they know we'll take care of their issues, report news they are seeking and do a better job than any of our competitors. If we do that we'll be around for years to come.

ART POWERS is publisher of the Johnson City Press.

CLIPS

David and Stacey Gentry are parents. Aiden Taylor Gentry was born Sept. 2. David is vice president of the Jefferson County Standard Publishing Co. and is an advertising representative at *The Standard Banner*, Jefferson City. This means that **Dale and Teresa**

Gentry are first-time grandparents. **Ellin Gentry** is a great-grandmother.

Ellin Gentry, the widow of Tom Gentry, founder of the newspaper, is well again after many weeks of physical therapy. She fell and broke a

hip July 19, was in the hospital a few days and in physical therapy, which she has completed. Her daughter-in-law related that her doctor said she was "healed," giving her permission to drive again.

TPA to judge KPA newspaper contest

Staff members of Tennessee Press Association newspapers will judge the Kentucky Press Association contests for awards to be presented in 2011.

The judging will take place in mid-November. TPA will ask for volunteers,

so watch *The Tennessee Press*, the TPA Member Update and www.tnpress.com for specifics.

The deadlines for the Ideas Contest and the TPA State Press Contests will be in mid-February.



Tennessee Press Service Advertising Placement Snapshot

ROP: Network:
August 2010: \$ 385,836 \$ 82,584
Year* as of Nov. 30: \$ 3,524,840 \$ 676,801

*The Tennessee Press Service Inc. fiscal year runs Dec. 1 through Nov. 30.



In memory of

Bill Rawlins

by

Barbara & Jim Charlet

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Courtesy, Freedom Forum

Jones family acquires Maryville newspaper

The sale of *The Daily Times*, Maryville, and its related websites to Blount County Publishers LLC is final, having closed at midnight Aug. 29.



Baldwin

Blount County Publishers LLC is owned by the Greeneville-based John M. Jones family and is a sister company of Jones Media Inc. *The Daily Times*, a 19,000 circulation seven-day daily newspaper, was sold by Horvitz Newspapers LLC, headquartered in Bellevue, Wash., and owners of *The Daily Times* since 1994.

As the sale became final, Gregg K. Jones, president and chief executive officer of Jones Media Inc. and Blount County Publishers LLC, announced that Ralph C. Baldwin Jr. has been named interim publisher of *The Daily Times*.

In a statement, Jones said, "My family and I are thrilled to be the new owners of *The Daily Times* and to have the opportunity to serve the wonderful Blount County community. Since the sale was announced July 1, we have been overwhelmed by the warm,

welcoming embrace of the people in Blount County. We know full well how important it is for a strong community to have a strong, responsive, caring newspaper that reflects every aspect of the community and fights hard for its progress. Leaders in the community have already expressed a lot of support for us, and we pledge to do everything in our power to justify that support."

Jones continued, "The next step is to name a publisher to lead the newspaper. Because Blount County is such a desirable place to live, we have been inundated by a number of extremely high-quality people wanting to be considered for the publisher position. In our efforts to find just the right person, we have narrowed the field considerably and expect to have a new publisher named in coming weeks. In the meantime, Ralph Baldwin, Jones Media's chief operating officer (COO), will be acting as interim publisher guiding the newspaper through the transition process. Ralph has served as Jones Media's COO for a little over two years, after having served as publisher of *The Daily Post-Athenian*, Athens, for 20 years.

"With already having many friends

and acquaintances in the community and with his decades of newspaper and community leadership, Ralph was the perfect pick for the position and is genuinely excited to help the newspaper and the community become even stronger."

The Jones family, which has published newspapers in Tennessee since 1916, is the owner of 14 community newspapers and nine travel/tourism guides published in East Tennessee and western North Carolina. The company's flagship newspaper is *The Greeneville Sun*, a daily based in Greeneville. Among the other East Tennessee newspapers in the group

are *The Daily Post-Athenian*, Athens, *The Newport Plain Talk*, Newport, the *News-Herald*, Lenoir City, *The Rogersville Review*, the *Advocate and Democrat*, Sweetwater, and *The Herald-News*, Dayton.

The family's travel/tourism publications include *Best Read Guide* and *Lodging Guide*, both serving the Sevierville-Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge region in Tennessee, and *Official Interstate Guide*, serving the southeastern United States.

Cribb, Greene & Associates, an 87-year-old newspaper brokerage and appraisal firm, represented the Jones family in the acquisition.

Crotser, publisher of Daily Times, retires

Max Crotser, publisher of *The Daily Times*, Maryville, for 16 years, has retired. A retirement celebration was scheduled Aug. 20 at the newspaper but was canceled when Crotser became ill.

After hospitalization for three weeks, he has been at home, and a daughter-in-law has been assisting him. He lives at 516 Glenfield Circle, Maryville, Tenn.

37804.

Evelyn Sandlin, advertising director for 11 years, speaking for the newspaper staff, said Crotser had been a joy to work with. He was well liked, and staff members "miss his popping in and out during the day."

"He was my partner, and we had very good years together. He was a good leader," Sandlin said.

FORESIGHT

OCTOBER



1: TPA seminar on reporting education, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., News Sentinel Building, News Sentinel Drive, Knoxville

3-5: SPJ convention, Las Vegas, Nev.

3-9: National Newspaper Week

7-9: 13th TPS Institute of Newspaper Technology, Knoxville

17-20: SNPA News Industry Summit (Annual Convention), Barton Creek Resort, Austin, Texas

20-23: Associated Press Managing Editors Conference, St. Petersburg, Fla.

24-27: Inland Press Association, Chicago, Ill.

DECEMBER

10: Deadline for submitting nominations for Tennessee Newspaper Hall of Fame

15: Bill of Rights Day

2011

FEBRUARY

9-11: TPA Winter Convention and Press Institute, Nashville

APRIL

29: TPA Advertising & Circulation Conference, Nashville

JUNE

16-18: TPA Summer Convention, joint with Kentucky Press Association, The Doubletree/Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg

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Full Name	Complete Mailing Address	
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)		

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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
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b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	635	629
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	20	20
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		655	649
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	233	233
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	3	16
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	3	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		239	249
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		894	898
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		106	102
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16. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the <u>October 2010</u> issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Greg M. Sherrill, Editor/Executive Vice President			Date September 14, 2010
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			

Critical tool: fund for rural journalists

BY DANIEL GILBERT

Staff writer, Bristol Herald Courier

In the months since this newspaper won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, many people have asked how a small daily in the coalfields of Appalachia managed to pull off a big investigation.

At the root of this question is an obvious, unsettling truth about journalism today: The best work comes almost exclusively from the news organizations with the deepest resources, based in the nation's biggest cities.

Journalism in the public interest should spring from need, not from superior resources. Nowhere is this brand of reporting needed more than in rural areas, like Southwest Virginia, that are not covered in any depth by powerhouse media outlets. As the reach of these outlets continues to shrink, the watchdog role in rural communities increasingly falls to the local newspaper, television station and website.

Resources matter most where they are in the shortest supply. That's why I'm launching R-CAR, the Fund for Rural Computer-Assisted Reporting.

The goal of R-CAR is to give small, rural news organizations a critical investigative tool, the ability to create and analyze databases, by training their reporters in the language of data. The fund, endowed at the University of Kentucky's Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, will provide fellowships in computer-assisted reporting taught by Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), based at the University of Missouri.

I attended such training sessions in

August 2009, in the midst of probing why natural gas royalties belonging to Southwest Virginia property owners were accumulating in state-controlled escrow accounts. In 20 years, the accounts had never been audited for compliance. I wanted to independently test whether the energy corporations required to pay into escrow were doing so.

With six days of training by IRE instructors, I was able to build a database that allowed me to compare royalty payments into escrow with gas production by well. I queried thousands of records, and the data spoke: Companies had not made any deposits at all into a significant number of accounts.

The subsequent articles, which combined data analysis with a year's worth of shoe-leather reporting, resulted in energy companies quickly depositing into escrow more than a million dollars in outstanding royalties. Lawmakers responded with legislation to facilitate the release of royalties in escrow to property owners, and state officials implemented measures to improve compliance.

In newsrooms like the *Bristol Herald Courier's*, with seven reporters, reporting this kind of story is a tax on already scarce resources. Resources alone are never enough to investigate a complicated issue, but the lack of them should not prevent important stories from being told. R-CAR exists, for now as a small effort to help rural journalists uncover stories that no one else will.

The funding for R-CAR comes from another award that the series, "Underfoot, Out of Reach," won: The

Scripps Howard Foundation's first-ever award for community journalism, which includes a \$10,000 cash prize. My donation is being matched by the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Research Challenge Trust Fund.

The launch of this project, six months in the making, coincides with my departure from Bristol. In October, I move to Houston to cover the oil industry for *The Wall Street Journal*. Though my reporting will no longer focus on rural communities, I look forward to following the projects that develop from R-CAR, and the reporting of this newspaper in particular.

For more information or to contribute to R-CAR, visit <http://cis.uky.edu/rcar>.

(See story on page one)
(Bristol Herald Courier,
Sept. 26, 2010)

ENGRAVINGS

The Virginia Bar Association honored the *Bristol Herald Courier* on July 23 for its Pulitzer Prize winning series about the mishandling of gas royalties owed to southwest Virginia landowners.

The Legal Journalism Award, which was presented during a reception at The Homestead, Hot Springs, Va., was the first of its kind by the association. It recognizes a news organization that reveals or focuses on areas of law that need attention to better serve the public interest.

"This series has contributed to public understanding of a little-known issue but one with significance" to landowners, said VBA President Stephen D. Busch.



Lance Cpl. James R. Washburn received the Purple Heart from Gen. James Amos, assistant commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Editor's son shot in Afghanistan

Marine L-Cpl. James R. Washburn was injured in a firefight Sept. 17 in Afghanistan. He sustained bullet wounds to his shoulder, arm and chest.

He is the son of Jeff Washburn, editor of the *Dresden Enterprise*.

Washburn was among the American forces guarding a polling station during the national elections in that country. Three others were injured and one was fatally wounded in the attack. Lt. Scott Fleming, 24, of Marietta, Ga., platoon leader, was killed during the small-arms exchange with an estimated eight to 10 Taliban who ambushed the eight-man Marine squad after they established a position in an Afghan village where a poll was to be open for the election the following day. Fleming is to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Oct. 7.

Washburn was taken to a hospital at Bagram Air Base north of Kabul, Afghanistan, where he was placed in the intensive care unit and underwent

an initial surgery.

He was moved to Lanstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and underwent surgery Sept. 20, then returned to the states Sept. 21. He is now at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., and was to undergo a bone graft to his upper right arm on Oct. 1.

He is in good condition, his father said Sept. 29.

Gen. James Amos, assistant commander of the Marine Corps, visited Washburn to present him the Purple Heart.

James is the son of Jeff and Jennifer Washburn of Dresden and Patty and Tracey Nutting of Martin and the grandson of Ramona Washburn of McKenzie. James is a 2008 graduate of Dresden High School.

Washburn's address is LCpl. James R. Washburn, Room 12, 5 East, Inpatient Surgical Ward, National Naval Medical Center, 8901 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, Md. 20889.

TRACKS

Jessica Cross, a Monroe County native, has joined *The Advocate & Democrat*, Sweetwater, as a staff writer. She is a 2009 graduate of Carson-Newman College, where she earned a B.A. degree in communications with a journalism emphasis and a minor in photography. While at the college, she served as co-editor and editor of the campus newspaper, the *Orange & Blue*.

Ruth Burkey, a former educator and a resident of Greene County, is the new local coordinator for *The Greenville Sun's* Newspapers in Education program. Burkey is a former high school history teacher in Florida and has worked with teachers and administrators across the country and overseas. She is a graduate of Centre College in Kentucky.



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TRACKS

MainStreet promotes

The Gallatin Newspaper and *The Hendersonville Standard* are now led by Publisher **Carol Maynard** and Executive Editor **Marjorie Lloyd**.



Maynard



Lloyd

Derby Jones, executive vice president of MainStreet Media, the parent company, said Maynard is in charge of all business operations and that Lloyd will spearhead all editorial and content decisions. Lloyd has been with the paper for almost four years. Maynard was previously in charge of advertising sales. She has been with the company for almost two years.

Washington County Mayor Dan Eldridge has chosen **Jeff Keeling**, the *Johnson City Press*' business editor, to take on the position he recently created for a director of community relations and communications.

Eldridge said he chose Keeling because of his strong knowledge and involvement in the community. Keeling said he took interest in and accepted the job for much the same reason.

Keeling is a 1988 graduate of Western Washington University where he received bachelor's degrees in English and journalism. Immediately after graduation, he went to work at the *Kingsport Times-News* and later moved to the *Johnson City Press*, where he worked on a variety of reporting and copy editing jobs. In 1999 he left the paper to take a job as resident services director for the Johnson City Housing Authority.

Keeling came back to the *Johnson City Press* in 2007, taking on the position of business editor.

Tonda Light has been promoted to retail advertising manager of the *Citizen Tribune*, Morristown. Previously, she held the position of administrative assistant in the advertising department.

Cindy Mitchell has joined *The Humboldt Chronicle* and *The Tri-City Reporter* as a sales representative. She has a background in newspaper and print media, as she and her husband, Vyron, owned the *Dyer County Tennessean*, Newbern, for 15 years.

She has worked as an advertising representative and manager for newspapers in Kentucky and Florida. One of the Mitchells' six children is in the newspaper business in Florida.

The *Macon County Times*, Lafayette, has hired **Bryan Sircy** as an advertising sales representative, focusing on print

and digital products. He will work alongside **Hope Green**. Sircy is a Macon County native who has spent much of his life working on a horse and cattle farm. He is a graduate of Western Kentucky University with a degree in agriculture and a minor in business administration at Nossi College.

Angel Gammon has joined the mailroom staff of the *Macon County Times* as an inserter. Since February, she has served as a contributing photographer and will continue this. She is a commercial photography major at Nossi College.

Ryan Murphy, at one time a reporter at the *News Sentinel*, Knoxville, is now a writer and director on the comedy-musical television series "Glee," which appears on the Fox network.

Teresa Owen has been named a community member of the editorial board of *The Leaf-Chronicle*, Clarksville, and may write personal columns during her four-month tenure.

David Johnson, sports editor, has left *The Oak Ridger*, Oak Ridge. His last day was Sept. 20.

Ideas won't go to jail

"In the long run of history, the censor and the inquisitor have always lost."

Alfred Whitney Griswold, Essays on Education, 1954

Handley is new Courier publisher

A veteran advertising man from South Carolina and Georgia on Aug. 16 became publisher of *The Courier News*, Clinton. He is **Allen Handley**, who has nearly 20 years' experience in advertising, mostly for daily newspapers.



Handley

He replaced **Ron Bridgeman**, who had been the publisher and editor since 2001.

Handley most recently has been advertising training manager for the State Media Co. in Columbia, S.C. He was also in ad sales for the Athens, Ga. *Banner Herald*, for four years and the Macon, Ga. *Telegraph* for 12 years. He worked for Fairway Outdoor Advertising in Athens, Ga. for a little more than a year.

Handley received a bachelor's degree in 1987 from the University of Georgia in Athens.

His wife, Denise, is a native of the Farragut area. The couple have been married for 13 years and have two children, Shane, 11, and Brook, 9.

The family attends Gateway Baptist Church in Columbia.

Denise Handley is a marketing representative for Jimmy Chrystal, N.Y. The family will move here to Clinton after their home is sold in South Carolina.

Rust elevates three publishers

Rust Communications, Cape Girardeau, Mo., has promoted three of its veteran group publishers to roles as regional vice presidents, working with Rust publishers in different parts of the country.

Bud Hunt, located in southeast Missouri, has added responsibilities there and in West Tennessee. Randy List, based in Indiana, has added responsibilities in Middle Tennessee and Iowa. Ron Kemp, based in Arkansas, has added the responsibilities in southwest and central Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Idaho.

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The Humboldt Chronicle
Weakley County Press, Martin
The Milan Mirror-Exchange
The Paris Post-Intelligencer
Lake County Banner, Tiptonville
The Gazette, Trenton
Union City Daily Messenger



District 6
Andrew Oppmann
The Leaf-Chronicle
Clarksville

Ashland City Times
The Leaf-Chronicle, Clarksville
The Dickson Herald
The Stewart-Houston Times, Dover
Gallatin News Examiner
The Gallatin Newspaper
The Lebanon Democrat
The Wilson Post, Lebanon
Mt. Juliet News
The Tennessean, Nashville
The Portland Leader
The Portland Progressive
Robertson County Times, Springfield
The News-Democrat, Waverly
The Westmoreland Observer



District 7
John Flinney
Buffalo River Review
Linden

Your Community Shopper, Ardmore
Hickman County Times, Centerville
The Daily Herald, Columbia
The Fairview Observer
Lewis County Herald, Hohenwald
The Democrat-Union, Lawrenceburg
Marshall County Tribune, Lewisburg
Buffalo River Review, Linden
Pulaski Citizen
The Wayne County News, Waynesboro



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Herald-Citizen, Cookeville
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Jackson County Sentinel, Gainesboro
The Hartsville Vidette
Fentress Courier, Jamestown
Macon County Chronicle, Lafayette
Macon County Times, Lafayette
LaFollette Press
Livingston Enterprise
Overton County News, Livingston
Independent Herald, Oneida
Scott County News, Oneida
The Sparta Expositor
The Mountain View, Spencer
Morgan County News, Wartburg



District 2
Jack McElroy
News Sentinel
Knoxville

The Courier News, Clinton
Harriman Record/Rockwood Times
Roane County News, Kingston
News Sentinel, Knoxville
News-Herald, Lenoir City
The Daily Times, Maryville
The Union News Leader, Maynardville
The Oak Ridger, Oak Ridge
Tennessee Star Journal, Pigeon Forge
The Mountain Press, Sevierville
The Claiborne Progress, Tazewell



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Lynn Richardson
Herald and Tribune
Jonesborough

Grainger Today, Bean Station
Bristol Herald Courier
Elizabethton Star
The Erwin Record
The Greeneville Sun
The Standard Banner, Jefferson City
Johnson City Press
Herald and Tribune, Jonesborough
Kingsport Times-News
Citizen Tribune, Morristown
The Tomahawk, Mountain City
The Newport Plain Talk
Rogersville Review



District 10
Eric Barnes
The Daily News
Memphis

The Crockett Times, Alamo
Bartlett Express
The States-Graphic, Brownsville
Collierville Herald
The Leader, Covington
Germantown News
The Commercial Appeal, Memphis
The Daily News, Memphis
Memphis Business Journal
The Millington Star
The Lauderdale County Enterprise, Ripley
The Lauderdale Voice, Ripley
The Fayette Falcon, Somerville



District 8
Brad Franklin
The Lexington Progress

Bulletin Times, Bolivar
The Camden Chronicle
Chester County Independent, Henderson
Carroll County News-Leader, Huntingdon
The Jackson Sun
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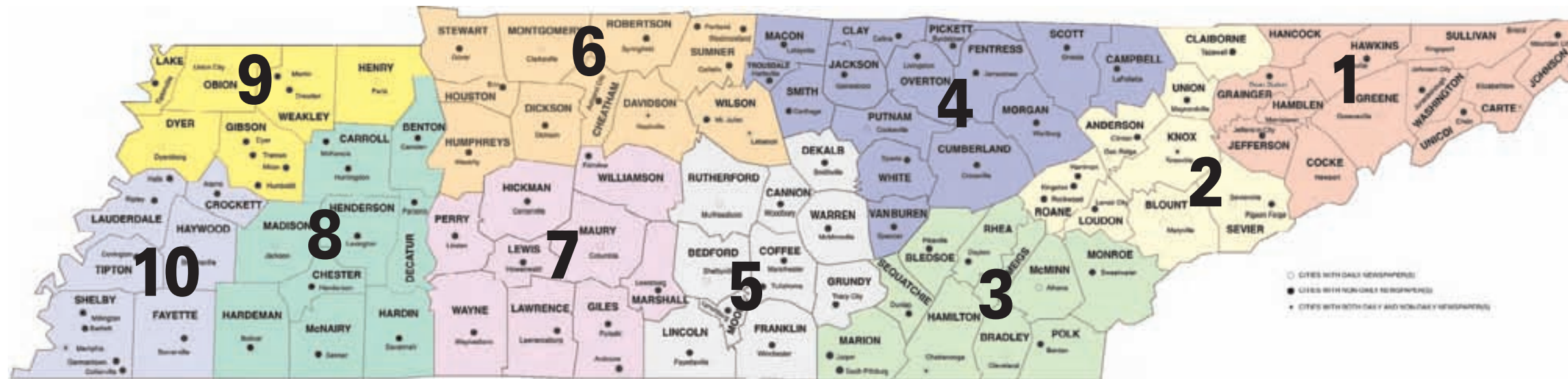
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The Moore County News, Lynchburg
Manchester Times
Southern Standard, McMinnville
The Daily News Journal, Murfreesboro
Shelbyville Times-Gazette
DeKalb County Times, Smithville
Smithville Review
Grundy County Herald, Tracy City
The Tullahoma News
The Herald-Chronicle, Winchester
Cannon Courier, Woodbury



District 3
Chris Vass
Chattanooga Times
Free Press

The Daily Post-Athenian, Athens
Polk County News, Benton
Chattanooga Times Free Press
Hamilton County Herald, Chattanooga
Cleveland Daily Banner
The Herald-News, Dayton
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Steve Lake, Pulaski Citizen
Victor Parkins, The Milan Mirror-Exchange
Mike Pirtle, Murfreesboro

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Janet Rail, Independent Appeal, Selmer
Darrell Richardson, The Oak Ridger, Oak Ridge
Pauline D. Sherrer, Crossville Chronicle
Joel Washburn, The McKenzie Banner
F. Gene Washer, Clarksville
Scott Whaley, Chester County Independent, Henderson
Bill Williams, Paris
Keith Wilson, Kingsport Times-News

TPAF officers, trustees

President appoints members of 2010-11 TPA committees

The Tennessee Press Association is announcing committee chairmen and members for 2010-11. These were appointed by President Art Powers, publisher of the *Johnson City Press*.

TPA has 14 committees and approximately 120 members, who will serve with the chairmen and in some cases, co-chairmen. Those names are provided first in the lists below.

John Finney, editor of the *Buffalo River Review*, Linden, was appointed chairman of the Press Institute Committee in February by the former TPA president, Victor Parkins, *The Milan Mirror-Exchange*.

Members of four other committees will be announced later.

ADVERTISING

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 Jacquta Burke, *The Paris Post-Intelligencer*



Wells

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 Heather Kent, *The Daily News Journal*, Murfreesboro
 Lou Lambert, *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis
 Sherri Politsch, *The Tullahoma News*
 Ron Prince, *The Jackson Sun*
 Evelyn Sandlin, *The Daily Times*, Maryville
 Sandra Shelton, *The Leaf-Chronicle*, Clarksville
 Sissy Smith, *Shelbyville Times-Gazette*
 Buffy Torres, *Rogersville Review*
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Kathy Boswell, *The Tullahoma News*
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 R. Jack Fishman, *Citizen Tribune*, Morristown

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 Jim Thompson, *The Courier*,



Stevens



Brewer



Williams

Savannah

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Johnny Teglas, *Roane County News*, Kingston



Adams



Finney



Critchlow



Wilson



Hensley



Richardson



Parkins

TRACKS

West 10 Newspapers names publisher

Brian Bloom, a third generation newspaperman, has been named publisher of the *Barlett Express*, according to West 10 Publisher Jeff Stumb.

Bloom was most recently publisher of the *Benton* (Ark.) *Courier*, a daily newspaper. He also was publisher of the *DeSoto Times*, Hernando, Miss.

Bloom will oversee operations at all seven West 10 publications, *Classified Advantage*, *Oakland News*, *The Collierville Independent*, *The Shelby Sun Times*, *The Millington Star*, *Bartlett Express* and *The Bluejacket*, the official naval support activity midSouth publication.

Bloom has spent more than 35 years in the news media. He is an Iowa native. His family owned four newspapers in western Iowa and northwest Missouri.

His wife, Jodi, a certified fitness trainer, manages fitness and nutrition centers in Benton.

Teresa Carter, a Waverly resident, has joined *The News-Democrat*, Waverly, as a staff writer. She will cover government meetings and major news stories.

Bill Ridings, publisher, has assumed duties as editor after the retirement of Win Anderson, whose last day at the paper was Aug. 30.

Lee Phipps has joined Marion County Newspapers/*Jasper Journal* as a staff writer. He grew up in Jasper. Phipps graduated from Marion County High School and attended Chattanooga State and Tennessee Technological University. He worked for several years in the Telecom industry.

Mary Leidig, a former reporter at *The Oak Ridger*, Oak Ridge, has been named director of marketing at Maryville College.

It doesn't always take two to tango

Kudos to *The Greeneville Sun* for the way it reported in its Aug. 11 edition the anatomy of a sunshine law violation and the lengths to which one alderman went in getting city budget committee meetings opened after failing to give notice of five previous meetings.

The alderman showed it doesn't always take two to tango—my words, not the Sun's.

In the calls we get from reporters and citizens around the state, it is obvious that some public officials play a numbers game when calculating how many members of a "governing body" it takes to violate the law. If they would read the first four, short sections of the statute or get some basic training, they would learn that numbers are irrelevant except in certain circumstances.

Meanwhile, the folks in the Rutherford County government deserve a "laurel" for the way they have handled one recent sunshine issue, but they get "darts" for the way they handled two others. They should perhaps get a third "dart" for having three sunshine controversies raging simultaneously.

I used the Greeneville case as an exhibit when the Hendersonville League of Women Voters asked me to talk about government transparency in Tennessee and where we are headed. Since I don't have a crystal ball, I passed on making any predictions and focused on problems that need to be fixed.

Education is important

Education is the key to citizens enjoying the full benefit of open government under a once-model law. The strongest law is worthless, however, if officials don't read it. Since training is not mandatory and there are no obvious penalties for violations, there is little incentive to follow the "spirit" or requirements of the law.

Greeneville and one of the Rutherford County cases illustrate how selective interpretation of the law leads to controversy and sometimes public embarrassment.

The Sun laid out the details from both sides in the Greeneville dispute and let the readers hear all the sides after the chairman of the city's Budget and Finance Committee asked an alderman to leave a committee meeting. The chairman said having two of the five members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen present would violate the law.

Ironically, the visiting alderman was there to deliver research he had done to show the committee was already violating the law by not giving public notice of its meetings.

The Sun laid out the sequence of events after announcing: "The meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee will from now on be announced in advance and will be open to the public, including the news media, according to Alderman

Darrell Bryan, chairman of the committee.

"Bryan, a former Greeneville mayor, emphasized late Tuesday afternoon in an interview that any violation of the Open Meetings Act had been unintentional, and had been based on an apparent misunderstanding on his part of what the state law required.

"He explained that he had thought that, as long as no more than one elected official of the town was present, a committee such as the Budget and Finance could legally meet in private."

The committee consisted of one alderman and two private citizens. They were charged with developing a city budget. Their first meeting was announced and open, but no notice had been given for the five subsequent meetings. There was no mention of whether the committee—with only one alderman on it—had been structured to get around the notice provisions.

The visiting alderman went to the meeting armed with excerpts from the law he had obtained anonymously from TCOG and an opinion from the Municipal Technical Advisory Service at UT. He said MTAS advised the committee should cease meeting in private and should start announcing meetings.

As reported by the Sun, the committee recessed the Aug. 10 meeting long enough for the chairman to get an opinion from the city attorney. When the attorney agreed with MTAS, the mayor and other board members were notified and the meeting resumed later in the day. The visiting alderman could not be found.

Look at law would have helped

A quick read of the law, a brief conversation with the city attorney or a little training might have given the chairman a clue that his interpretation of the law was wrong. The law states:

TCA 8-44-102(a) "All meetings of any governing body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times..."

"(b)(1) Governing body' means: (A) The members of any public body which consists of two (2) or more members, with the authority to make decisions for OR RECOMMENDATIONS TO A PUBLIC BODY on policy



TENNESSEE COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT

Frank Gibson

or administration..."

It says nothing about the number of members of the governing body. The number "two (2)" is used to define a "public body." The meetings of the budget committee would fall under the law if all members had been citizens because it was created to make recommendations to the legislative body.

The obsession with numbers showed up in Rutherford County, too.

A citizens' group filed an ethics complaint against the county mayor for allegedly misstating the requirements of the sunshine law. He allegedly told county commissions a committee studying creation of a law department did not fall under the law

because the committee did not include a "quorum" of the whole commission.

The issue in Murfreesboro was the same as Greeneville because the committee was working on a recommendation to the county commission. The county ethics committee dismissed the complaint for lack of jurisdiction, so the mayor's alleged claim was not tested.

No discussion, but vote

The second Rutherford County case is a little different. The county election commission fired the elections administrator under "other business" at the end of a meeting.

The Republican chairman asked for a motion to dismiss the administrator. Then without discussion, the panel voted 3-2 to fire him.

The chairman later told reporters he had discussed the issue with the two other GOP commissioners before the meeting, putting the commission squarely at odds with another provision of the sunshine law.

T.C.A. 8-44-102c exempts "chance meetings of two or more members of a public body" but says "No such chance meetings, informal assemblages, or electronic communication shall be used to decide or deliberate public business in circumvention of the spirit or requirements" of the law.

Instead of following the rule of law, the commission used the golden rule of politics:

"Them who have the votes make the rules."

Apparently sensing they had opened themselves up to a sunshine lawsuit, where their earlier action could be declared void, the chairman announced another commission meeting. It then rescinded the earlier action 3-0 and turned around to suspend the administrator.

Finally, the Rutherford County Regional Planning Commission deserves some credit for handling the controversy over construction of a proposed Muslim mosque the right way.

A group of citizens, led by a twice-unsuccessful candidate for public office, is opposing the mosque and has filed a lawsuit claiming the notice the planning commission gave before approving a site plan on May 24 was not adequate enough for them.

A search of records shows the commission published the notice in the *Murfreesboro Post* three weeks ahead of its regular meeting. The opponents contend the newspaper notice should have mentioned that the mosque project was on the agenda.

County officials explained that the land was already zoned for a church, so no other notice was required.

Recent court cases say notices of special meetings must include an agenda of specific items, but it's not as clear that notice of specific agenda items is required for regular meetings, except for items subject to public hearing.

A Rutherford County chancellor denied an injunction sought by mosque opponents. Based on press reports, officials there appear to have gotten it right.

By not announcing public meetings, officials invite public criticism that could be avoided with more thought.

FRANK GIBSON is TPA's Government Affairs Committee coordinator and executive director of the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government. He can be reached at (615) 202-2685 or fgibson@tcog.info. TCOG is a non-partisan, non-profit advocacy group created to improve and preserve access to public records and meetings. Send contributions to P.O. Box 22248, Nashville, Tenn. 37202.

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How to fix two problems with Snow Leopard

BY KEVIN SLIMP

TPS technology director



Slimp

I get more e-mails about Snow Leopard issues than just about anything else these days, with the exception of PDF problems. I've been following my e-mails lately and average about three cries for help each day related to Snow Leopard.

For those unfamiliar with Snow Leopard, it is the latest Mac operating system. While consulting with newspapers far and wide over the past few months, problems with printers, PDF files and fonts since installing the new operating system are commonplace.

As I mentioned last month, I've found a fix for the disappearing Adobe PDF driver issue. Since that column was released, I've been flooded with e-mails asking for my findings. It was tempting to keep this discovery to myself, meaning newspapers and others would have to hire me to learn my little secret.

Conscience, however, got the best of me. So I'll share my secret with you.

Adding an Adobe PDF Printer Driver in Snow Leopard

While visiting with newspapers over the past couple of months, I've actually come across a couple of ways to tackle this issue. This morning, I installed Snow Leopard (10.6.4) on my iMac. Let me explain the method I used to fix this problem on this computer.

Step 1: Find the Adobe PDF printer driver on a backup drive or another computer in your workplace. I was able to find mine on several backup drives. If you had an Adobe PDF printer driver on your computer before installing Snow Leopard, you should be able to find it on a backup. It is located in the Mac HD >Library>Printers>PPDs>Content>Resources>enproj folder. Whew.

Step 2: Copy that file to the Mac HD >Library>Printers>PPDs>Content>Resources folder on your new system. You can skip the enproj folder from the previous step. Simply put the file in the Resources folder.

Step 3: Go to your System Preferences (found under the apple in the top corner of your desktop). Then click on "Print & Fax."

Step 4: Click on the + (plus) button at the bottom of the list of printers in the Print & Fax window.

Step 5: Follow along with the screenshot that (I hope) is found on this page. Set your Protocol to "Line Printer Daemon." Select any IP address that pops up in the Address line. Enter a name for the driver. I used "Adobe PDF." You can leave the Location line blank. Finally, click on the "Print Using" line and select "Other."

Step 6: Find the printer driver that you previously copied to the Resources

folder earlier. If you receive the prompt, "A queue for this printer already exists," click "Continue."

Step 7: Click on the "Add" button. You have successfully fixed the problem.

The next time you select "Print" in InDesign (or other programs), you should see a printer named "Adobe PDF" or whatever you named the printer during the install.

Type 1 Fonts Disappearing in Snow Leopard

Lisa Griffin, my good friend who serves as the technical guru for the Boone Group of newspapers based in Alabama, called while I was working on the printer driver issue and asked if I'd run into a lot of papers losing fonts when upgrading to Snow Leopard. The answer was "yes," but I hadn't spent much time trying to figure out why this was happening.

It's good to have friends. Lisa told me she'd been working on this for some time and had noticed that some Type 1 fonts worked fine in OS 10.6, but many didn't. After much trial and error, she found that if you copy your Type 1 fonts to the folder associated with a particular application, they usually work fine from then on.

For instance, if a particular font that is installed in the Fonts folder inside your Library folder aren't showing up in InDesign, copy that font to the Applications>InDesign>Fonts folder. That should do the trick.

I wish I'd known this a week ago. I was pulling my hair out while at a small newspaper that had recently bought a couple of new computers. They were unable to get their fonts to match because some of the fonts on the old computers wouldn't show up on the new ones. I hope I'll remember to send them this column.

You might wonder why Apple chose to make changes to their latest operating system that causes these quirks to exist. I have no idea. Officially, from what I've read, Apple does not support Type 1 fonts any longer. They seem to work fine if you follow the previous suggestion, but still they are not officially supported.

And don't even get me started on the PDF printer driver debate. I'm still a little hot from my experience last month. If you don't know what I'm talking about, visit my website (kevinslimp.com) to see how that turned out.

Thanks, Lisa, for your assistance. And PC users, I apologize. This month's column probably didn't interest you at all. However, it might have given you something to use when arguing with your Mac friends.

Style tip

"Try to preserve an author's style if he is an author and has a style."

Wolcott Gibbs,
Writer, editor
The New Yorker, 1937



Using the IP address of a current printer on your network, you can trick Snow Leopard into installing an Adobe PDF driver on your system, allowing you to create PDF files as you have in previous operating systems.



After installing the Adobe PDF driver, users can create Postscript files from InDesign as they always have.



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Printing the truth, bringing us together

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
The Miami Herald

Lyndon Johnson once said of Gerald Ford that he “played too much football with his helmet off.”

Theodore Roosevelt once called William Howard Taft “a fathead with the brains of a guinea pig.”

Harper's Weekly once described Ulysses S. Grant as “a drunken Democrat dragged out of the Galena (Ill.) gutter.”

Which was positively charitable compared to the magazine's take on Abraham Lincoln, “a filthy story-teller, despot, liar, thief, braggart, buffoon, usurper, monster, ignoramus, old scoundrel, perjurer, robber, swindler, tyrant, field-butcher, land-pirate.”

So perhaps we can dispense with the notion that incivility is somehow new to American political discourse.

And as Eric Burns illustrates in

his book, *Infamous Scribblers: The Founding Fathers and the Rowdy Beginnings of American Journalism*, slanted reporting is no modern innovation, either. To the contrary, Colonial-era papers were not simply open in their support or opposition to a given politician or policy, but often came into being for that express purpose. As the editor of a paper in Danbury, Conn. put it two centuries ago, “A despicable impartiality I disclaim.” So no, bias is not new.

And yet...

It is difficult to escape a nagging sense that something fundamental has changed in American journalism, that the aggressive but fair kind of reportage many of us grew up yearning to emulate—Cronkite, Murrow, Woodward, Bernstein, Pyle—has been superseded by something coarser and much less concerned with truth. Consider the tale of Shirley Sherrod.

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As even residents of the rainforest must know by now, she was the black Agriculture Department employee who was depicted as a racist in a video posted by blogger Andrew Breitbart. She had been fired from her job and nationally reviled before the truth came out: the video had been selectively edited and Sherrod was actually the opposite of a racist.

And there you have it, the thing that's new: not the libel, not the bias, but the reach, the ability of a single individual, lacking a newsroom or traditional distribution machinery, to elbow his way into the national discourse, and in this case, to cost a woman her reputation and livelihood, through the simple expedient of a shameless lie. Alie, Mark Twain once observed, can get halfway around the world while the truth is still pulling on its pants.

Not to put too fine a point on it, but Twain died in 1910, decades before CNN was founded and the World Wide Web became part of our daily lives. If lies moved that fast in his era, their speed is incalculable now.

Therein lies the challenge. Where once we were all restricted to the same body of verifiable facts upon which to base our arguments and disagreements, the very ubiquity of untruth has removed that necessity. I am not required to hear, much less credit, any facts I don't like. In the 21st century, I choose my beliefs first, then am provided with “facts” to

support them.

The result is that it becomes literally impossible to have reasoned debate or even argue effectively, because we begin with no assumptions in common. You have your “facts” and I have mine and never the twain shall meet.

Both major political ideologies have exploited this gap, as witness the liberals who use “facts” to insist no airplane struck the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. But it is undeniably conservatives who have done the most to exploit the gap—not simply by peddling birther canards, but also by constructing what amounts to a social isolation chamber to prevent contamination from competing facts.

It began with conservative cable news and conservative radio. It has been followed by a conservative alternative to the Bible, a conservative alternative to Wikipedia, a conservative alternative to the AARP, a conservative alternative to Webster's Dictionary, a conservative alternative to YouTube and—you can't make this stuff up—even a conservative alternative to ice cream.

It is not too much to say that we are witnessing an act of intellectual secession.

The irony of the age, then, is this: the humble newspaper, beset by financial challenges, fighting for its life, is the one medium that has proven relatively resistant to this intellectual partitioning. Maybe the partitioners just don't care enough about newspapers to subvert them; one wonders if Andrew Breitbart even knows such a thing as a “newspaper” exists.

Whatever the cause, the effect is that in what some fear are their waning

days, newspapers assume a paradoxical significance. Because they do not deal in designer facts, because they still try and occasionally succeed, in getting it right, in telling the story fully and fairly, they become the closest thing American political discourse has to an honest broker. That function has seldom been more critically important than it is now.

A nation where everybody acts upon his or her own “facts” is a nation pulling apart. By behaving as if truth is not multiple choice, as if facts are knowable and knowing them matters, newspapers pull us together.

Some days, it feels as if they are the only thing that does.

(From the National Newspaper
Week kit prepared by Florida
Press Association)

Disorderly man arrested at newspaper

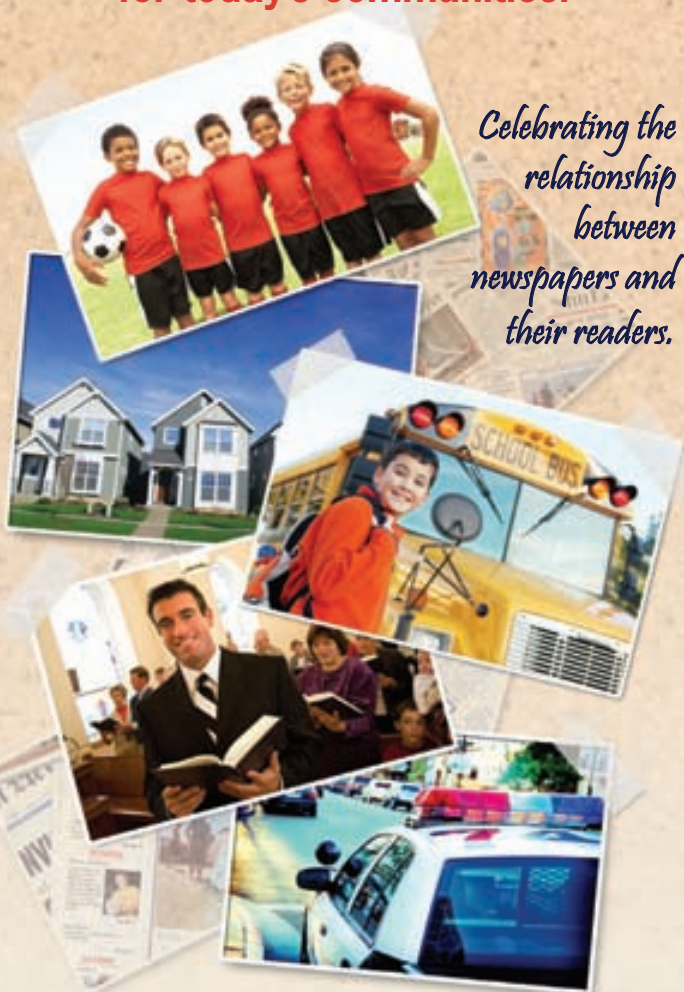
Police intervened when a reader arrived July 26 at the *Johnson City Press* to complain about a story and became violent. Ronald Arnold, 44, a resident of John Sevier Center, was angry about an article in the July 26 issue about bedbugs at the center.

He began shouting obscenities at employees and reportedly punched a brick wall outside. After Arnold ignored repeated warnings, police used a Taser on him, arrested him and took him to jail. He was charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. He later posted bond and was released.

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