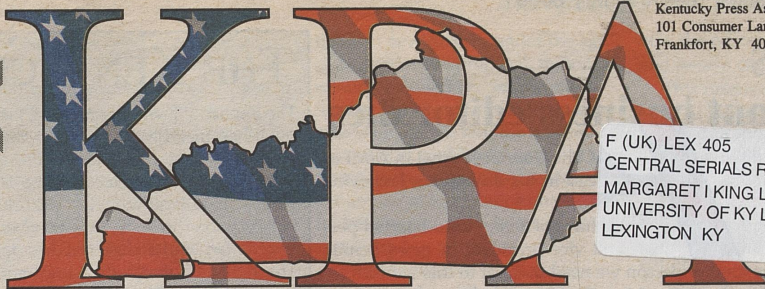


The  
Kentucky  
Press



Volume 78, Number 1  
Kentucky Press Association  
101 Consumer Lane  
Frankfort, KY 40601

PRST-STD A  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Glasgow, KY 42141  
Permit No. 939

F (UK) LEX 405  
CENTRAL SERIALS RECORDS  
MARGARET I KING LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF KY LIBRARIES  
LEXINGTON KY 40506

January 2006 - Published by Kentucky Press Association/Kentucky Press Service

\* OVERSTAMP  
P/N  
4700  
K37  
477  
1101  
2006  
Jan

## People and Papers

### New general manager named for newspapers

After 19 years as CEO of The Community Press newspapers, Tom Noonan has retired. The Community Press is the parent company 27 newspapers in greater Cincinnati and northern Kentucky.

"We worked hard together and accomplished much in building a very healthy and viable operation," Noonan said in a message to employees.

William Cusack has taken over the leadership role as general manager.

Cusack has been director of operations of the Community Press since 2002. Prior to that he served as publisher of the Community Recorder newspapers in northern Kentucky.

He joined the company in March 2000, coming from Thomson Southwest Ohio, where he served in a number of roles including regional sales manager of the Journal-News Group, publisher of the Oxford Press and general manager of Thomson Online/Electronic Publishing.

The Community Press and The Community Recorder are owned by Gannett Co. Inc., the country's largest newspaper group in terms of circulation.

"I am particularly happy that we are able to promote from within," said Margaret Buchanan, presi-

See NEWS on Page 12

# Back in business



PHOTO BY JOHN WHITLOCK/KPA NEWS BUREAU

Kentucky Speaker of the House Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, speaks with the media following the opening of the 2006 session of the Kentucky General Assembly Jan. 3.

## Kentucky General Assembly opens 2006 session

What can we expect from this year's General Assembly?

Turn your head toward the heavens and ye may find your answer.

The knowledge you seek may come in the form of a billboard.

A casino advocacy group, Kentucky Equine Education Project, is making a major push through billboards and newspapers to allow expanding gaming in the commonwealth.

The aim of its membership, in its own words, is "in the interest of preserving Kentucky's equine heritage and strengthening the economy, the Kentucky Equine Education Project supports a voter

### From our news desk ...

By John Whitlock  
KPA News Bureau  
Director



referendum to amend the state constitution to all for full casino gaming for those holding licenses to operate racetracks in Kentucky."

Kentucky Senate bill 4, which was prefiled by David E. Boswell of Owensboro, proposes the state Constitution be amended to allow casino gambling at Kentucky horse-racing tracks.

There is a lot of power behind

KEEP, and some of their positions probably make a lot of sense to a lot of voters including the notion that the commonwealth is losing millions of dollars to Indiana casinos.

I'm not here to make an argument for or against more gaming in the state but as the General Assembly gets rolling, newspapers across the state should brace for the two-sided blitz to come.

Some of the more conservative regions of the state that don't see a lot of revenue from the horse industry and charitable-gaming operators will line up for a fight with casino supporters.

See SESSION on Page 3

## PASSINGS

### C-J assistant business editor dies

John Kirkpatrick, who joined the staff of The Courier-Journal in April as an assistant business editor, was found dead in his downtown Louisville apartment He was 51.

"Aside from being a solid journalist, John was a very kind-hearted person, Courier-Journal executive editor and vice president of news Bennie Ivory said. "He was the kind of person we need more of in this world."

Kirkpatrick worked at the Dallas Morning News for 18 years, where he had been a writer and editor on the Metropolitan, Lifestyles and Business News desks.

"He was a terrific stylist as a writer and also an exceptional, thoughtful person as a colleague," Ed Dufner, Dallas Morning News assistant managing editor, said. "John was the consummate professional."

A North Carolina native, Kirkpatrick "did everything off the wall, when we were kids, that you could possibly do," his brother, Thomas Kirkpatrick, said, but "he was always very studious ... he always enjoyed writing.

Kirkpatrick had been a business editor at the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News from 1983 to 1986, and had worked an earlier stint at the Dallas Morning News, as well as for a newspaper in Richmond, Va., according to his brother.

He earned his bachelor's degree in journalism from Antioch College in Ohio, and he had attended the University of

North Carolina in Chapel Hill for some undergraduate work,

"John was an astute editor who brought a new depth of financial news expertise to the paper," Courier-Journal business editor Dan Blake said. "He will be sorely missed."

.....

### Former Hazard Herald correspondent dies

Nerva Crutcher, a former Hazard Herald correspondent, passed away Nov. 5 at the Hazard Appalachian Regional Hospital.

Crutcher was a weekly correspondent for the Herald for nearly five years.

She attended Rogers Branch School before going to work for the government work program NYA.

In 1941, she married Courtney Crutcher and they moved to Oxford, Ohio.

In 1956, Nerva Crutcher began working for the Hazard Appalachian Hospital, and remained there for over 26 years.

.....

### Yvonne Eaton, C-J columnist, dies at 70

Yvonne Eaton Willenbrink, a features columnist and reporter for The Courier-Journal for 45 years, died recently at Baptist Hospital East after a battle with cancer.

She was 70.

For decades, Willenbrink took Courier readers inside Louisville houses that were always imaginative, sometimes wacky and frequently just plain beautiful," said Courier-Journal Features Editor Greg Johnson.

When Willenbrink was introduced to Courier-Journal Magazine readers in 1961, along with another new female reporter, she was described as young, talented and extremely good-looking under the headline, They're Lovely, and They Write.

Willenbrink who wrote under the name Yvonne Eaton quickly built a reputation as a hard-line grammarian and an eagle-eyed proofreader for the Features Department, as an editor wrote of her in 1972.

But her legacy became her social and community Contacts and her decades as the newspaper's resident expert on interior design, furniture and antiques.

## THE KENTUCKY PRESS

The Kentucky Press (Permit # 939) is published monthly by the Kentucky Press Association/Kentucky Press Service, Inc. Third Class postage is paid at Glasgow, KY. 42141. Subscription price is \$8 per year. Postmaster: Send change of address to The Kentucky Press, 101 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY. 40601, (502) 223-8821.

### OFFICERS

#### KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION

**President** - Charlie Portmann, Franklin Favorite

**President-Elect** - Alice Rouse, Murray Ledger and Times

**Vice President** - Kriss Johnson, Lexington Herald-Leader

**Treasurer** - Taylor Hayes, Kentucky New Era

**Past President** - John Nelson, The Advocate Messenger, Danville

#### Board of Directors

District 1 - Loyd Ford, The Lake News, Calvert City

District 2 - Jed Dillingham, Dawson Springs Progress

District 3 - David Dixon, The Henderson Gleaner

District 4 - Jeff Jobe, Butler County Banner

District 5 - Ron Filkins, Kentucky Standard

District 6 - John Mura, Louisville Courier-Journal

District 7 - Kelley Warnick, Gallatin County News

District 8 - Ken Metz, Bath County News Outlook

District 9 - Loretta Tackett, Paintsville Herald

District 10 - Edmund Shelby, Beautyville Enterprise

District 11 - Don Estep, Whitley News Journal

District 12 - Donna Carman, Casey County News

District 13 - Don White, Anderson News

District 14 - Teresa Scenters, Berea Citizen

**State At-Large**  
Taylor Hayes, Kentucky New Era  
Tom Caudill, Lexington Herald-Leader  
Willie Sawyers, London Sentinel  
Echo  
Mark Van Patten, Bowling Green Daily News

#### Division Chairman

News Editorial Division - Mike Alexieff, Bowling Green Daily News

Advertising Division - Steve Wheatley, Elizabethtown News Enterprise

Circulation Division - Kriss Johnson, Lexington Herald-Leader

Associates Division - Cliff Feltham, Kentucky Utilities

Journalism Education Representative  
Liz Hansen, Eastern Kentucky University

General Counsels - Jon Fleischaker, Ashley Pack, Dinsmore & Shohl

#### Kentucky Press Association Staff

David T. Thompson, Executive Director

Bonnie Howard, Controller

Teresa Revlett, Director of Sales

David Greer, Member Services Director

John Whitlock, News Bureau Director

David Spencer, New Media Administrator

Buffy Sams, Bookkeeping Assistant

Stephanie Conrad, Research/Marketing Coordinator

Sue Cammack, Administrative Assistant

Rachel McCarty, Advertising Assistant

Holly Willard, INAN Business Clerk

Staff members, officers and directors

may be reached by e-mail using the individual's first initial, full last name@kypress.com.

## SESSION

### Continued from page 1

with casino supporters.

It should be interesting to see if this proposal makes it all the way to a referendum. I'm a fan of controversy that puts two usually opposing beliefs together for a common cause - like temperance groups and bootleggers teaming up to fight legal alcohol sales in a county. When these two sides get together, usually its an informal bond with no real organization, it makes for good copy.

Here are some other interesting prefiled bills to follow:

• **HB 103 - submitted by Mary Lou Marzian and Jon Draud.**

This bill would impose a tax of 32 percent of the gross receipts of wholesale sales of smokeless tobacco, cigars, loose tobacco, and pipe tobacco. Under the specifics of the bill, the money raised from the new

tax would be used to establish a children's dental care fund and be divided up for other programs such as mental health and substance abuse services, Medicaid health care services, health insurance for state and public school employees, smoking prevention and cessation, public school construction or renovation for school districts with growth in enrollment, veterans' nursing homes, cancer research, and postsecondary tuition assistance or the state's general fund.

This is the kind of legislation that will probably go through without much of a public fight but expect a lot of grumbling. It's hard to defend opposition to any laws that could make smoking, dripping or chewin' less attractive. This is that kind of bill that could spark some good "man on the street" coverage.

• **HB 90 - submitted by Tom Burch D. Keene and Wuchner**

This bill would put some restric-

tions on new drivers under the age of 18. Under the proposal, minors would be issued an "intermediate license" for six months. Under the provisions of the bill, the intermediate driver could only have one teen passenger at a time, could not get any moving violations or legally drive between the hours of 12 and 6 a.m.

Like the tobacco tax, this bill could provoke a lot of grumbling among readership. This legislation is a good opportunity to canvass local high-school students who haul all their friends to cheerleading practice. You could find out how its passage could affect insurance rates. Are the cops in favor of it?

• **HB 86 - submitted by Charlie Hoffman**

This bill would change current Kentucky law make seat-belt usage a primary enforcement issue for police. This means if a cop spots you driving without using a seat

belt, the officer can pull you over and issue a citation.

This proposal is probably generating as much grass-roots interest as any other bill facing the General Assembly. Reporters and editors can expect a lot of reaction from the community on this one. This bill could be a good source for local editorials.

These are just some of the issues the General Assembly will be facing over the course of the next 60 odd days.

The budget, which triggered so much controversy last year, is still on the table.

Which bills will become law? Will Democrats and Republicans ever agree?

Will partisanship win out?

Who will emerge from the upcoming battles as the victor?

Stay tuned for our next exciting episode.

## AWARD WINNERS

### WKU student newspaper, yearbook win national Pacemakers award

Western Kentucky University's student newspaper and yearbook have continued their tradition of winning national Pacemaker awards.

The College Heights Herald and the Talisman won the awards at the ACP/CMA National College Media Convention in Kansas City.

The Pacemaker awards, cosponsored by the Associated Collegiate Press and the Newspaper Association of America Foundation, are considered to be the Pulitzer Prize of college journalism.

WKU was the only university to take home national Pacemakers in both newspaper and yearbook competition.

The Herald, which competes in the four-year nondaily newspaper category, has won the national Pacemaker 11 times. The Talisman has nine national Pacemakers for yearbooks, including two straight awards since resuming publication in 2003.

"It's quite a tribute to the students who produce Herald and Talisman for both publications to win their top national award," Robert Adams, director of Student Publications, said.

This year marks the sixth time the Herald and Talisman have won national Pacemakers at the same convention.

Herald editors for the fall 2004 and spring 2005 semesters were Danny Schoenbaechler and Shawntaye Hopkins, both of Louisville.

### Former Sentinel-News writer honored

John Friedlein, staff writer and farm reporter for The News Enterprise in Elizabethtown, has been named recipient of Kentucky Farm Bureau's 2005 communications award to a writer.

Friedlein, a former staff writer for The Sentinel-News, was presented the award during a ceremony at Farm Bureau's 86th annual convention. He received a plaque and \$300, and will be invited to take part in Farm Bureau's 2006 Congressional Tour to Washington, D.C.

The communications award has been presented annually since 1960 to a print journalist whose work contributes to a better public understanding of agriculture.

Media outlets, county Farm Bureaus and other farm organizations nominate candidates. A similar award is presented to a broadcaster.

Sentinel-News Associate Editor Walt Reichert received the award in 2001.

Freidlein is a graduate of St. Xavier High School and the University of Louisville.

In his role of farm reporter at The News-Enterprise, Freidlein has written extensively on topics such as beef prices, tobacco payments and soybean rust. His articles have also dealt with issues that are important to agriculture and he has published feature articles on individual farmers.

"John came to the newspaper with an interest in writing about agriculture and took it upon himself to include stories about farming in the community that had long been overlooked, Hardin County Farm Bureau President Ray Allen Mackey said".

He made all these things important and brought them to the front page of the newspaper."

### Former Times Journal editor wins contest

Beth Foster, daughter of Junior and Connie Foster of Russell Springs, is the leader of the Indiana weekly newspaper recently recognized as the state's best.

The Mount Vernon Democrat, where Foster is editor and general manager, was awarded the Hoosier State Press Association Foundation's Blue Ribbon at a banquet in Indianapolis.

The press association awards a daily and nondaily daily Blue Ribbon each year.

In addition to receiving the Blue Ribbon award, Foster also received an award for first place for best feature section or page, and third place for best newspaper design. She shared in a first place award for best news coverage with no deadline pressure by a team.

# Can I download a paper onto my iPod?

An often-mentioned theme during this month's KPA convention in Lexington will be how to attract new readers - particularly young ones. With that goal in mind, someone in the newspaper field needs to figure out how we can align ourselves with iPod. That seems to be the road to success in today's media world.

I don't own an iPod. I've never even held one much less used it. But from what I read, it's the ticket to salvation.

First came iPod music downloads and then TV downloads. Can downloading the local paper be next? OK. I know. An iPod screen is tiny and not designed for text but surely there's a way around that.

If we want to get our newspapers into the hands of more people, maybe this is one way. It's a crazy idea but no crazier than some of the others I hatched over the years at various newspapers, e.g. audiotext, a controversial reader hotline, a newspaper-based local cable TV

## Oh, By The Way

By David Greer  
KPA Member Services  
Director



newscast and the concept of a weekly UK basketball newspaper page - among my crazier ideas that actually worked in varying degrees.

Apparently, iPod users value the convenience the little device offers - as in taking your music or video anywhere you go for listening or viewing at any time. Yes, newspaper readers get that now with our age-old paper format but some people just seem to have an aversion these days of reading anything on paper. Put the same material on a screen of some sort - computer, iPod or cell phone, for stance, and they like it. Put it on paper and it's boring - in their minds. I don't understand it

either but it's reality for many.

At my house, my wife and I bought ourselves a TiVo for Christmas. It's a digital video recorder. Yes, it basically does the same thing a VCR does but only much easier and with more features. It's a cinch to program it to record a show or movie we want to watch later - just press one button with no setting the time - and everything goes directly to the TiVo's hard drive. No more tapes! No searching for a blank tape. No more cuing tapes to the right spot so as not to erase something else already on it. No more tape jams or tapes eaten by the machine. It's digital recording in the purest sense. It's the TV we want when we want it. In other words, it's all about convenience.

Another big push for the past several years has involved eliminating the mandatory trip to the video store to rent a movie on DVD or tape. Or better yet, eliminating the dull and pointless trip to return the

movie to the store. Cable and Internet companies have trials underway in communities across the nation that deliver so-called video-on-demand. It's all about convenience.

Do we see a trend emerging here? Time will tell but don't be surprised if iPod or maybe Son of iPod figures prominently in the future of the newspaper industry.

.....

I'm very pleased to report that 107 schools are now members of the Kentucky High School Journalism Association for the current school year - our highest membership yet. Sixty-one percent of the KHSJA schools are sponsored by a local paper. That's a wonderful record and represents the highest newspaper sponsorship rate so far. But more importantly, it demonstrates the dedication Kentucky newspapers have in mentoring the next generation of journalists.

## SND seeks entries for competition

The Society for News Design is accepting entries for the 27th Annual Best of Newspaper Design creative competition.

The competition is open to all general circulation newspapers - daily or nondaily, broadsheet or tabloid, traditional or alternative - published anywhere in the world. All entries in this juried competition must have been published between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2005, inclusive. U.S. entries must be received in Syracuse, N.Y., by Jan. 18; international entries must be received by Jan. 25.

The full set of rules and forms for entering the competition can be viewed, printed and downloaded from SND's web site at <http://www.snd.org> in English and in Spanish and in both Quark and PDF formats or request a copy from SND by sending an e-mail to [snd@snd.org](mailto:snd@snd.org), or contact the Society for News Design at its new address, 1130 Ten Rod Road, D 202, North Kingstown, RI 02852-4180.

FIND  
OUT  
MORE

A PDF form for registration has been uploaded to [accesskpa.com](http://accesskpa.com)

## News photographers holding Jan. contest

The annual Kentucky News Photographers Association's annual POY contest and seminar is Jan 20 and 21, at the Louisville Marriott East. The event is the premier showcase for photojournalism in the state.

The still and TV judging will take place Jan. 20, and is open to the public with the educational seminar Jan. 21. The event will include a lighting seminar as well as a vendors area.

The featured speakers on the still side are Vincent LaForet - contract photographer, The New York Times; Susan Biddle - staff photographer, Washington Post; and freelance photographer Amy Toensing from Philadelphia.

The featured TV speakers include: Ray Farkas, independent producer, Corky Scholl, KUSA-TV in Denver, NPPA Ernie Crisp Television News Photographer of the Year and Michael Rosenblum, video-journalist.

For more information, visit the KNPA web site at [www.knpa.org](http://www.knpa.org) for contest and seminar information as well as PDF files of still and TV rules, seminar and awards luncheon registration.

## Courier-Journal will close three state bureaus

The Courier-Journal will close its regional bureaus in Hazard, Paducah and Elizabethtown early next year, the newspaper recently announced.

Publisher Edward Manassah, who made the decision, said the closures won't entail layoffs. The three reporters in the bureaus will receive as-yet-unspecified reporting jobs -- two likely in Louisville and a third in Frankfort.

"We want to continue to focus on local news and better utilize our resources," Manassah said.

He added the newspaper still is committed to covering the big stories in Kentucky, but "we would like very much to grow our suburban coverage. We'd like to intensify our online presence to continue to improve the newspaper in terms of

impacting our readers."

"It will be a terrible thing. People need to know what's going on," said Bill Gorman, 81, the long-time mayor of Hazard. "I just think that it's going to cause all of Kentucky to suffer."

Gorman said the newspaper "has been such a part of the mountains. We have the holy Bible and The Courier-Journal."

Michael A. Lindenberg, the Elizabethtown bureau's reporter, said there are a myriad of stories out in the state and he worries that more might go untold.

"I think it's a huge step backwards ... it's a really sad day for the newspaper," said Lindenberg, a Louisville native.

# Say thanks to a postal worker

## Benjamin Franklin Award of Excellence nominations sought

Did a deserving postal employee go out of the way to provide excellent service in 2005?

Despite the weather, and the challenges of long-distance deliveries, did a local postmaster, clerk, carrier or administrator go above and beyond the call of duty to help newspapers reach their readers?

If so, that employee--and the nominating newspaper executive--may earn a trip to Washington, DC, in March, 2006, if the newspaper's nominee for the Benjamin Franklin Community Newspaper and Postal Partnership Award of Excellence is selected as the national winner.

Jointly sponsored by the National Newspaper Association and the United States Postal Service, the "Ben" award is designed to recognize service by USPS employees--postmasters, business mail clerks, letter carriers and others--who have provided excellent service and strengthened the relationship between the Postal Service and newspapers.

A winning nominee submitted by an NNA member newspaper will be selected for each state. A national winner will be chosen from among state winners to be flown to Washington, D.C.--along with the nominating NNA member publisher or editor-- for recognition during the 45th Annual Government Affairs Conference. Postmaster General Jack Potter and NNA President Jerry

Reppert, publisher of Gazette-Democrat, Anna, IL, will present the award.

Judges are members of the NNA Postal Committee, chaired by Max Heath, vice president of Landmark Community Newspapers, Inc.

Entry forms are in the mail to newspapers. In addition, nomination forms are available at [www.nna.org](http://www.nna.org) <<http://www.nna.org>> under Contests and Awards: Ben Franklin.

Deadline for entries is Feb. 15. Entries should be returned to the NNA Washington Office, PO Box 5737, Arlington, VA 22205.

Reppert emphasized the importance of recognizing local efforts.

"With hurricanes, blizzards, tornadoes, changes in postal processing networks and a ton of other hurdles for mail service to clear, sometimes the overall national delivery presents challenges to newspapers. But often we find local postal employees doing their level best to overcome the challenges and help us reach our readers. Those are the folks we want to recognize," he said. "This award represents some of NNA's most important work with the Postal Service, and I encourage NNA members to participate."

The award is named in honor of the first US Postmaster General, who was also a newspaper publisher. It was established in 1999 to salute the partnership between local post offices and community newspapers across the nation.



MAX HEATH

# Have you returned our 'net survey?

Advertising Plus

By Teresa Revlett  
KPS Director of Sales



Starting this year, the Kentucky Press Service staff plans to sell more online advertising for members.

One of our goals is to establish an Internet banner advertising program for its member newspapers. A survey was recently sent out to member newspapers requesting information so that a program can be put into place. Several newspapers responded by the Dec. 30 deadline. However, better than half have yet to respond to the survey.

The survey was sent to ad managers at all Kentucky newspapers. If you do not have a survey that was sent the first of December give me a call and we can fax another form to you. For fastest reply, complete the form and fax it to Teresa at 502-875-2624.

Here's the information on the form:

- Name of Newspaper
- Phone
- Web site address
- Webmaster name
- Webmaster email address

Approximate number of impressions on main/front page of your newspaper's website during a one week period Cost of a 120X60 pixel ad on your main/front page website

If you do not have a website, then we ask that the form be returned with a NO checked saying that you do not have a web site. A network buy is being developed for those newspapers who have web sites. Once all the surveys are turned in, the plan will be presented to the KPA/KPS Board of Directors Jan. 19.

Anyone with questions should call me at 502-227-7992 or email [trevlett@kypress.com](mailto:trevlett@kypress.com)

Happy New Year!

# CNHI establishes state news bureau to serve its heavily rural readership

Community Newspaper Holdings Inc. has announced that Ronnie Ellis, a longtime Glasgow Daily Times reporter, will become the chain's Kentucky correspondent in the state capital of Frankfort on Jan. 2. His copy will move through the CNHI News Service.

"Company vice-presidents Keith Ponder and Eddie Blakeley created the position with the intention of having someone at the capital who could delve more deeply into issues affecting communities within the CNHI readership," writes Times Editor Todd Garvin.

Blakeley said, "We hope to bring our readers a different perspective on statewide and political news. It will be more of a behind-the-scenes look at what goes on in Frankfort and how it affects our local communities."

Ellis, 54, has covered politics for much of his

20-year journalism career. He has a bachelor's degrees from Western Kentucky University in English and journalism, and has won several awards. Ellis said, "It's as exciting a move as I've ever made in my career."

Ellis will serve a heavily rural readership. CNHI has daily papers in Glasgow, Somerset, Corbin, Richmond and Ashland, and weeklies (some publishing more than once a week) in Greenup, Olive Hill, Grayson, Morehead, London, Whitley City and Monticello. All the towns are in Appalachia except Glasgow, whose county borders three Appalachian counties.

Only one town, Ashland, is in a metropolitan area, and its Daily Independent, the largest-circulation (18,678) CNHI paper in Kentucky, has many rural readers.

# 2006 KPA CONVENTION

## Increasing readership is a constant theme at this year's KPA convention

By DAVID GREER  
Member Services Director

The 2006 KPA convention is just days away. If this year's event had an official theme, it would probably be along the lines of "How to increase your paper's readership - particularly among young people."

Those who attend the Jan. 19 and 20 convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1801 Newtown Pike, Lexington, will hear that theme repeated during several breakout sessions on Friday as well as being the topic of the keynote speaker at Friday's luncheon.

But reforming newspapers isn't the whole ball of wax. The convention is very fortunate to have Dr. Willard Dagggett, a nationally known expert on high-school reform, speaking during a Friday breakout. Dr. Dagggett's session is "Reforming the nation's high schools: what the public and press need to know." His visit to Kentucky is sponsored by the Prichard Committee and is a must-attend event for publishers, editors, columnists, op-ed writers and reporters covering the education beat.

The convention begins at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19 when the registration desk and KPA Trade Show open. At 2 p.m., a bus leaves the hotel headed for a tour of the newspaper microfilming operations at UK. The bus will then stop at the Herald-Leader for a tour on the way back. Bus seating will be limited to 44 people. The bus should arrive back at the hotel by 5:30 p.m. with the opening reception and vendor showcase beginning at 6 p.m.

The registration desk opens at 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20 for a day full of interesting and informative breakout sessions. The noon luncheon will feature the annual Changing of the Guard as the new KPA president takes over for the coming year. Keynote speaker Jim Abbott, vice president of the NAA Foundation, will speak on the realities newspapers face in attracting and retaining young readers.

The complete convention program is on this page. Please look it over carefully. You're sure to find breakout sessions you and members of your paper's staff will want to attend. Topics run the gamut from editorial content that drives readership to maximizing advertising and online revenues to the latest technologies and even how to deal effectively with customers and readers on the telephone. We even expect a visit from the real Woody and Chloe, the cute dogs featured in the Tails from the Bluegrass serialized stories.

Friday's convention program will conclude with the annual awards banquet and winners of this year's KPA contest.

The complete convention program as well as a convention registration form can be found on [www.kypress.com](http://www.kypress.com).

### 2006 KPA Convention Program Thursday, Jan. 19 Friday, Jan. 20

#### Thursday, January 19

- 8 a.m. - Trade Show Vendors Set Up
- 10 a.m. - KPA/KPS Board of Directors Meeting
- 11 a.m. - Trade Show/KPA Registration Desk Opens
- Noon - KPA/KPS Board of Directors Luncheon
- 2 p.m. - Bus departs for tour of the UK microfilm facility then to a tour of The Lexington Herald-Leader. Bus returns to the Embassy Suites at 5:30 p.m.

- 6 p.m. - Opening Reception/Managers Reception and Vendor Showcase

#### Friday, January 20

- 8 a.m. - Trade Show/KPA Registration Desk Opens
- 9-10:15 a.m. - KPA News Editorial Division - Content That Drives Readership: excerpts from the front lines  
Presenter: Donna Reed, vice president of news, publishing, Media General, Richmond, Va.
- 9-10:15 a.m. - KPA Advertising Division - Get the most out of your sales force - seven ways to achieving your sales force's potential  
Presenter: Bill Gager, president, Gager International
- 9-10:15 a.m. - KPA Advertising Division - Big Ideas for Making Big Money  
Presenter: Serene Zlatin, marketing manager small papers, NAA
- 9-10 a.m. - KPA News Editorial Division

- Election coverage: How to handle Kentucky's biggest election year ever, including those judicial campaigns that may get out of hand. Former Courier-Journal political writer Al Cross, now director of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues and member of the Kentucky Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee, will give a brief report on class projects -- last year's on tobacco and its communities, and this year's on Covering Rural Elections.

9-10:15 a.m. - KPA Circulation Division - Over-the-top customer service and other circulation success stories  
Presenter: Phil Hanna, circulation consultant, Anderson, Randles & Associates

10:30 a.m.-noon - KPA News Editorial Division - Bad News and Good Judgment: A guide to reporting on sensitive issues in a small-town newspaper  
Presenter: Jim Pumarlo, author of book by the same name; a former Minnesota small-town editor.

10:30 a.m.-noon - KPA Advertising Division/KPA Circulation Division/KPA Associates  
May I help you? - Using the telephone effectively in sales and customer service  
Presenter: Janet Rush

10:30 a.m.-noon - KPA Advertising Division - Conforming with civil rights laws in newspaper housing and employment ads  
Presenter: Cynthia Thornburg, Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

10:30 a.m.-noon - KPA Circulation Division - Kentucky Network for Newspapers in Education -- share your successes with NIE, serial stories, etc.  
Moderated by Kriss Johnson, The Herald-Leader, KNNIE chairperson

Noon - 1:30 p.m. - Changing of the Guard Luncheon  
KPA President Charlie Portmann passes the gavel to 2006 KPA President Alice Rouse  
Keynote Speaker: Jim Abbott, vice president, NAA Foundation

"What newspapers must do to attract and keep young readers"

1:45-3:15 p.m. - KPA General Session  
Reforming the nation's high schools: what the public and press need to know  
Presenter: Dr. Willard Dagggett, authority on education reform (Sponsored by the Prichard Committee)

1:45-3 p.m. - KPA News Editorial Division  
Reporters: On Drugs -- covering Kentucky's drug culture in small markets  
Presenters: Dale Morton, Operation UNITE; Ron Hamblin, Bobby Thorpe Jr., and Teresa Barton, Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy

1:45-3 p.m. - KPA General Session  
The Web is not your enemy!  
Presenter: Greg Swanson, Lee Enterprises

1:45-3 p.m. - KPA Associates Division  
Podcasting, RSS, blogs -- modern technologies invade today's office  
Presenter: Don McNay, Richmond Register/CNHI columnist

3:15-4:30 p.m. - KPA News Editorial Division  
Newspaper Redesign on a Tight Budget  
Moderator: Julie Satterly, Oldham Era

3:15-4:15 p.m. - KPA Advertising Division  
Kentucky Registry of Election Finance: Complying With the Law  
Presenters: Anne R. Hester and Greg Cordier, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance

3:15-4:15 p.m. - KPA Circulation Division  
Tails from the Bluegrass  
Woody, Chloe and Leigh Ann Florence visit Come and shake paws and have your picture taken for a \$1 donation

6 p.m. - KPA Awards/Managers Reception  
7 p.m. - KPA Awards Dinner

# Going back to the basics: Defamation

The concept of defamation is simple enough. Defamation is a generic word for a false statement that hurts someone's reputation. If it's written, it's libel. If it's spoken, it's slander. And if you've been defamed, the law generally gives you a right to sue your defamer to recover for your damaged reputation. This right is created under state common law.

## The Elements of a Defamation Claim

Under Kentucky law, a lawsuit for defamation must state the following four basic elements.

**1. A false statement.** Truth is an absolute defense. No matter how awful a statement is or how much it damages a person's reputation, if it's true it cannot form the basis of a defamation claim.

**2. Of and concerning the plaintiff.** Defamation claims are personal. You cannot sue for false statements made about someone else. In fact, a defamation claim dies with the plaintiff. Even a deceased person's heirs and estate cannot sue for harm to his or her reputation.

**3. Communicated to a third party.** The false statement about the plaintiff must have been heard or seen by someone other than the person who made the statement or the person the statement was about.

**4. Damaging to the plaintiff's reputation.** There are plenty of false statements that might enhance, rather than damage, a person's reputation. On the other hand, some plaintiffs have such a bad reputation to begin with, that a false statement cannot make it any worse. For example, a serial killer convicted of 11 murders is likely to be a "libel-proof plaintiff," so that a false report that he murdered 12 people would not make a difference. A defamation plaintiff must show how his or her reputation was injured. Typically, a defamation plaintiff has lost job opportunities or has been shunned by neighbors and colleagues.

If any one of these four elements is absent, there is no defamation.

## Defenses to a Defamation Claim

The really daunting complexities of defamation law (and there are plenty) mostly come into play on the other side of the balance. Freedom of speech, particularly under the First Amendment, recognizes that individuals and the media should

be able to speak and write about important topics without fear of being sued over every mistake, insult, or difference of opinion. Therefore, even where an arguably false statement is published that hurts someone's reputation, there are a variety of privileges and defenses available under state and federal law.

**1. Opinion.** The First Amendment protects opinions, even very unflattering opinions. In addition, true opinions probably couldn't constitute defamation in the first place because they can't be false. For example, when an editorial states that the mayor is "the worst mayor ever," by definition it cannot be proven to be false. On the other hand, if an editorial says "in my opinion the mayor is a liar," it may imply the provably false fact the mayor has told a specific lie, depending upon the context. Prefacing a defamatory comment with "In my opinion..." will not automatically insulate the speaker from liability.

## From a legal standpoint

By Kenyon Meyer  
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

**2. Reports on Judicial and Legislative Proceedings.** Fair reports of court proceedings and legislative proceedings are absolutely privileged, regardless of their truth or falsity. Such proceedings are an important part of public affairs that the First Amendment recognizes should be openly and freely discussed and debated. For example, reporting that an individual has been charged with murder or sued for wrongful death is protected even if turns out that the individual is innocent of the charges.

**3. Fair and impartial report of government records.** Kentucky law also provides a privilege for "fair and impartial" reports concerning a wide variety of government records presented, filed, or even simply used in connection with any state or local legislative or executive body, board or officer, as well as court records. This privilege only applies if the report fairly and impartially portrays the government record and was not made with the sole intent of harming the subject of the report.

**4. Public Figures and Actual Malice.** The First Amendment gives less protection to the reputations of public officials and public figures, especially where the subject of the defamation is a matter of public concern. The press and public have the right to criticize the people who govern them and who interject themselves into public affairs. When public figures and public officials claim that they have been defamed, they not only have to prove each of the four elements of defamation, they must also prove that the defendant acted with "actual malice." To prove actual malice, a plaintiff must demonstrate either that the defendant knew the statement was false or had good reason to believe that it was false.

Defamation plaintiffs who are private individuals have more protection than public figures. In Kentucky, a private individual who is neither a public official nor a public figure, must only prove that the false statement was negligently made.

**5. Procedural Defenses.** There are a number of procedural obstacles to defamation claims that can also be asserted. First, a defamation claim must be brought within one year of the publication. A defamation plaintiff is not entitled to punitive damages against a newspaper unless he or she demanded a correction and the newspaper refused to publish the correction.

## Journalism school partners with NPPA for online photo course

A one-year, \$100,000 grant from Knight Foundation will help Western Kentucky University partner with the National Press Photographers Association to create online tools to teach professionals, teachers, and students how to produce better photos.

The project will create an educational program, which will include

online judging of the NPPA's Best of Photojournalism contests.

"We consider this a perfect partnership the top photojournalism program partnering with the top photojournalism contest," said Dr. Pam McAllister Johnson, head of WKU's School of Journalism and Broadcasting.

In the Hearst Intercollegiate

Photojournalism contest, the collegiate equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, WKU has ranked first for 15 of the last 17 years. This year, Johnson was selected to serve on the contest committee.

The goal is to improve news photos through educational tools.

They include online judging of the Best of Photojournalism contest

to help teachers guide students through the event; teaching modules created from contest winners; expanding photo archiving as a learning tool for professionals, teachers and students; and a roundtable to discuss ethics and First Amendment issues before the contest, then distributing the seminar online.

In the Attorney General's opinion ...

## Attorney General upholds part of police decision

The Office of the Attorney General has partially upheld a decision by the Bowling Green Police Department to withhold records from an investigation into 8-week old infant with "suspicious injuries."

The department rejected a request from The Daily News reporter Rachel Adams access to portions of the report containing "investigative details ... that if released at this time, could potentially affect any information a witness might not otherwise know ... (thereby) jeopardizing the credibility of that witness."

In an Oct. 6 response, the department told Adams that her request was denied because it was part of an on-going investigation, citing KRS 61.878.1

In an appeal to the Attorney General's office, Adams said seeing police reports even of ongoing investigations were routine.

"As the police reporter for the Daily News, I am permitted to see incident reports every morning for publication in our police blotter, including items that are considering ongoing," Adams wrote. "I am also permitted to see reports involving juveniles, as long as their names have been obscured with black

marker. As it has been more than two weeks since the incident occurred, and as the incident involves a juvenile who name I am not permitted to see anyway, I see no reason for the Bowling Green Police Department to continue withholding this report."

Adams said the public is entitled to the report.

"The Department's desire to keep this information private (doesn't) outweigh the public's right to know such an incident occurred," Adams wrote.

In a response filed the Attorney General's office, Bowling Green City Attorney H. Eugene Harmon on behalf of the police department said releasing the report could offer reveal information which could ultimately hinder the investigation.

"In discussions with both the City Police Department and with the Commonwealth Attorney, I was advised that this matter is still under investigation. I was also advised by both agencies that there are too many investigative details in the incident report that, if released at this time, could potentially affect any information a witness might not otherwise know. The concern is that if these details are disclosed and a witness later

comes forward to corroborate the details of the incident, an argument could be made that the witness learned of the details from the release of the report and not from actual first-hand knowledge. This could jeopardize the credibility of that witness. Therefore, the police department and the Commonwealth Attorney believe that premature disclosure at this time would harm their ability to adequately investigate this matter."

Harmon also pointed out that the Attorney General in the past has supported decision to withhold investigative materials in connection with cases involving juvenile victims in his response.

Before issuing its opinion, the Attorney General's office requested and received a copy of the report.

The Attorney General's office studied the report and found that the Bowling Green Police Department acted within the bounds of the Open Records laws in withholding the materials with one exception.

Portions of the report, the AG found, do not contain investigative details that have not already been disclosed and should be released.

The AG's office recently reaffirmed the proposition that law enforcement agencies cannot adopt a policy of blanket nondisclosure relative to incident reports.

The office's decision was premised on the notion that "secret police activity without some overriding justification is repugnant to

See AG on Page 10

### Are you sitting on your newspaper's archives?

SmallTownPapers works with small community newspapers from across the country to scan current and archived newspapers at no cost to the publisher and to provide online access to keyword-searchable newspaper pages that appear exactly as printed.

SmallTownPapers offers safe, intact scanning of bound volume archives, protection of publisher content from public domain, revenue sharing, and other products and services. Visit our website for more information.

[www.smalltownpapers.com](http://www.smalltownpapers.com)

**SmallTownPapers®**

## Buy, Sell...or Improve

We've done them all for independent, family-owned newspapers. Mike and Debbie Crawford-Anders provide 40 years' combined experience in publishing, sales and building long-term profitability.

**Discreet. Affordable.  
...and Downright Pleasant.**

**ENDEAVORS**  
Creative newspaper solutions

Elizabethtown, KY ■ (859) 215-5312 ■ [endeavors@comcast.net](mailto:endeavors@comcast.net)



## Hopkinsville council bypassed agenda 162 times in 10-year span

By JENNIFER P. BROWN  
New Era Senior Staff Writer

In the past 10 years, Hopkinsville City Council has voted 162 times on an issue that was not listed on its agenda, said City Attorney Steve Underwood.

Often, the issues raised and acted upon during the portion of a regular meeting designated as other required the council to approve spending on a project. Other issues not specifically listed on an agenda but approved as part of other included budget amendments, lease agreements, rezoning and even bond issues, Underwood recently told council members.

Underwood, in response to complaints about the council's decision to OK the \$3.4 million water park contract during the other portion of the Oct. 18 meeting said he researched minutes from the council meetings for the past 10 years.

Council member Larry Gifette had asked the city attorney to offer an opinion about whether it was proper to act on projects not specifically listed on a meeting agenda.

Underwood said the record shows the council

often acts on items not listed on an agenda.

The Kentucky Open Meetings Act does not require a council to act only on agenda items at a regular meeting, he noted. However, state law does require that special called meetings be limited to agenda items.

"My opinion is not the end of the road, Underwood said.

The council's action could be challenged in court, he said. In addition, the council has the option of changing its own ordinance dealing with meeting agendas and procedure, he said.

On Oct. 18, the council reached a tie vote on a motion raised during other to allow Mayor Rich Liebe to sign a contract with KT Construction in Russellville to build the water park at Tie Breaker Park on Eagle Way. Liebe broke the tie in favor of the project.

Council members and the mayor have been criticized for acting on multi-million dollar project that was not specifically listed on the agenda.

Supporters of the project argue that the council faced a deadline on the construction bid and that members have the public had two years to comment on the water park.

## Judge says cost of Cheney visit must be revealed

FRANKFORT Gov. Ernie Fletcher and the Kentucky State Police improperly withheld expense and manpower records of a visit by Vice President Dick Cheney to an Indiana political fund-raiser, a judge has ruled.

The administration had invoked a new exception to the Kentucky Open Records Law passed earlier this year that allows governments to keep some records secret if their disclosure would pose a reasonable likelihood that the infor-

mation could be used to help plot a terrorist attack. Franklin Circuit Judge Roger Crittenden ruled the administration had made no such showing.

Cheney flew in and out of Louisville on March 28 for a fund-raising appearance for an Indiana congressman. Other than getting on and off his airplane, he did not set foot in Kentucky. Nonetheless, the state police helped provide security and other services.

The Associated Press requested overtime, expense

and other records. Attorney General Greg Stumbo's office, which reviews initial appeals of records decisions, sided with Fletcher.

There is little reasonable likelihood that the numbers of Kentucky State Police assigned in this situation or the amount of tax dollars expended will expose a vulnerability in the security measures taken when the vice president of the United States travels from Louisville International Airport to southern Indiana, Crittenden wrote.

## County attorney seeks to seize former GM's bond

Former Floyd County Times acting general manager William Bill McHugh may have to forfeit the \$50,000 cash bond that was put up for his release from the Floyd County Detention Center, after he was arrested in Bradenton, Fla. on three counts of kidnapping and one count of grand theft auto.

A motion seeking the forfeiture, filed by County Attorney Keith Bartley, notes that McHugh was ordered by the court to not have any violations of law pending the outcome of his case, which finds him accused of six counts

of first-degree sexual abuse.

The charges were brought by two women who claim that McHugh lured them to his room at the Prestonsburg Holiday Inn, where he allegedly touched them inappropriately.

McHugh was out on bond waiting to see if he would be indicted by a Floyd County grand jury when he was arrested in Florida.

The Florida case stems from an Oct. 22 incident in which McHugh allegedly stole a silver Chrysler that was parked, and still running, in front of a Bradenton bowling alley.

## AG

Continued from page 9

the American system of government. Consequently, when a citizen reports a crime to the police, he may generally expect that the news media will learn of the report.

"(A law enforcement agency) is the servant of the people and if a citizen wants the services of (that agency) to investigate a crime, he cannot expect that the matter will be kept secret.

The Bowling Green Police Department doesn't question this idea.

If the department was to successfully argue they were correct in withholding the report, the AG's office says the decision must meet three criteria:

- The agency must establish that it is a law enforcement agency or an agency involved in administrative adjudication.

- It must establish that the requested records were compiled in the process of detecting and investigating statutory or regulatory violations.

- The public agency must demonstrate the disclosure of the information would harm it by revealing the identity of informants not otherwise known or by premature release of information to be used in a prospective law enforcement action.

If the law enforcement agency says the basis for denial in terms of the requirements under state law, the AG has recognized that parts of an incident report can be withheld.

The AG found the following should be withheld in this case:

- Complainant's name
- Business telephone number
- Victim's name, home phone number, address, sex, race, date of birth, ethnicity and injury type.

- Evidence taken and tools used
- Witness' name, race, sex, date of birth, Social Security number, address, home telephone number, business' address and what the witness saw and heard.

- Some of the investigator's notes.

After studying and considering several other cases and appeals in relation to the question at hand, the A.G.'s office concluded that the Bowling Green Police Department didn't violate open records statutes.

"Our analysis in each of these appeals was based on a number of factors, including the seriousness of the crime, the circumstances under which it was committed, and the adverse impact on the juvenile of further disclosure," the A.G.'s office wrote. "Assessing each of these factors in the context of the instant appeal, we find that disclosure of the juvenile victim's identity, and any identifying information, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

# Yeomans to oversee Kentucky AP operations

## Hank Ackerman takes on new duties as new New Orleans bureau chief

Hank Ackerman, chief of bureau in Kentucky for The Associated Press, has been appointed chief of bureau in New Orleans, where he will return to oversee AP operations in Louisiana and Mississippi and help direct coverage of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Adam Yeomans, chief of bureau for Tennessee, will add oversight of AP news and business in Kentucky to his responsibilities under a reorganized two-state operation. As bureau chief for Tennessee and Kentucky, Yeomans will be based in Nashville.

The appointments were announced Thursday by John O. Lumpkin, vice president/business

operations for U.S. Newspaper Markets. The changes will be effective Jan. 8.

Ackerman, 63, who succeeds Charlotte Porter as New Orleans bureau chief, has been bureau chief in Kentucky since 2003 and returns to New Orleans after a five-year stint as bureau chief there in the 1980s.

Ackerman joined the AP in New York in 1972, was appointed news editor in Buenos Aires and later served as bureau chief in Lima, Peru, and Caracas, Venezuela, before returning to the United States in 1980. He served as Cleveland correspondent and bureau chief in New Orleans, Detroit and Atlanta before becoming a general

executive in New York in 1993, serving as director of marketing of AP's multimedia services. He holds degrees from Davidson College in Davidson, N.C., and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Yeomans, 46, joined the AP in Tallahassee, Fla., in 1993 after working for the Orlando Sentinel and Reuters. He was appointed news editor in Miami in 1996, and assistant bureau chief in Miami in 1997.

He was named chief of bureau for Tennessee in 2005. He serves on the board of the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government.

## Roger Alford appointed new AP correspondent in Frankfort

Roger Alford, Associated Press correspondent in Pikeville, Ky., has been appointed AP correspondent in Frankfort, Ky., leading AP's coverage of state government.

The announcement was made Dec. 13 by Hank Ackerman, chief of bureau in Louisville.

Alford, a native of Middlesboro, has been in Pikeville since September 2000.

Alford worked at The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch from 1997-2000, where he covered metro news and served on an investigative reporting team.

Previously he had been a reporter at the Middlesboro Daily News, the Ashland Daily Independent, and the Portsmouth Daily Times.

He is a native of Middlesboro and a graduate

of Union College in Barbourville where he was editor of the campus newspaper.

Alford succeeds Mark R. Chellgren, who is retiring after 25 years with AP. Chellgren has been AP Frankfort correspondent since 1983. Before that, he was correspondent in the Evansville, Ind., office of AP responsible for coverage of western Kentucky and southern Indiana.

## STATE CONTACTS

**Andrew Melnykovych**  
Director of Communications  
Kentucky Public Service  
Commission  
502-564-3940 Ext. 208  
Andrew.Melnykovych@ky.gov

**Kim Brannock**  
Education Cabinet  
502-564-6606 Ext. 130  
KimS.Brannock@ky.gov

**Chris Gilligan**  
Director of Communications  
Kentucky Justice and Public  
Safety Cabinet  
502-564-7554  
Chris.Gilligan@ky.gov

**Karen Combs**  
UK Journalism  
Klcomb1@email.uky.edu

**Selena Curry**  
Kentucky Transportation  
Department

Selena.Curry@ky.gov

**Doug Hogan**  
Transportation Cabinet  
Office of Public Affairs  
502-564-3419  
DougC.Hogan@ky.gov

**Les Fugate**  
Les.Fugate@ky.gov  
Director of Communications  
Secretary of State  
502-564-3490

**Gil Lawson**  
Department of Education  
502-564-6786  
Gil.Lawson@ky.gov

**Lisa Lamb**  
Dept. of Corrections  
502-564-4726  
Lisa.Lamb@ky.gov

**Tom Martin**  
House Democrat Caucus

502-564-2363  
Tom.Martin@lrc.ky.gov

**Jill Midkiff**  
Finance Secretary's Office  
502-564-4240  
Jill.Midkiff@ky.gov

**Tommy Newton**  
WKU Journalism News  
Tommy.Newton@wku.edu

**Vicki Glass**  
Attorney General's office  
Attorney.General@ag.ky.gov 502-696-  
5300

**Michael Goins**  
Deputy Communications  
Director  
Gov. Fletcher's Office  
502-564-2611  
Michael.Goins@ky.gov

**Brett Hall**  
Director of Communications

**Gov. Fletcher's Office**  
502-564-2611  
Brett.Hall@ky.gov

**Legislature Research Commission**  
Public Information  
502-564-8100

**David Williams**  
President of Senate  
david.williams@lrc.state.ky.us  
502-564-4120

**Jody Richards**  
House Speaker  
jody.richards@lrc.ky.gov  
502-564-3366

**Susan Clary**  
Supreme Court Clerk  
502-564-5444

**Stephen Smith**  
Kentucky Registry of Election Finance  
stephen.smith@ky.gov  
502-573-2226

## PEOPLE AND PAPERS

Continued from page 2

dent and publisher of The Cincinnati Enquirer. "Bill's appointment will assure a smooth transition."

A U.S. Navy veteran, Cusack began his newspaper career in the early 1980s as an advertising account executive with the Norwich and Sidney Pennysavers in New York.

Cusack holds a master of arts degree from Miami University.

### Rae Wagner joins Herald Ledger as general manager

To ensure the **Herald Ledger** fulfills its role as the community's heart is the goal of the newspaper's new general manager, **Rae Wagoner**.

**Jim Paxton**, vice president of **Paxton Media Group LLC**, the Herald's parent company, recently announced Wagoner's appointment to the post.

Wagoner said she is most excited about being a part of the community.

"I think the newspaper in a small and closely knit area such as Lyon County should truly be the heart of the community," she said.

Wagoner has 11 years experience in the publishing industry having spent the last eight years as director of Sun Publishing, a specialty publishing company of Paxton Media Group LLC in Paducah. She started with **Sun Publishing** as an account executive in 1995. After living in Lyon County and making the workday trek to Paducah for the last two years, Wagoner said she is excited to finally bring her work closer to home.

"It was like living two lives trying to take her life on the road every Monday," Wagoner said.

She not only brings new leadership, but also new ideas aimed at providing readers and advertisers with a more vital news product.

Those ideas run the gamut from pages devoted to more human interest and style features to more news from the schools.

### Stanley named editor of Appalachian News-Express

The **Appalachian News-Express** is pleased to announce the promotion of **Rachel C. Stanley** to editor.

Stanley had previously served the **News-Express** staff writer and news editor before accepting the position of editor.

She replaces former Editor **Mike Moore**, who took another post in central Kentucky.

Stanley is a 2002 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and previously worked for **The Lynchburg News & Advance** in Lynchburg, Va.

"I'm really excited about becoming the editor of the **News-Express**," Stanley said. "I think the **News-Express** is a great newspaper and I look forward to upholding the standards the community has come to expect."

With Stanley's move to editor, the **News-Express** also promoted staff writer **Andrea Bennett** to news editor and weekend editor **Chuck Ferguson** has moved to a copy editor position.

Bennett previously served as a staff writer for **The Paintsville Herald** while Ferguson was a long-time employee of American Electric Power.

### Advocate arts writer to attend NEA seminar

**Jennifer Brummett**, arts and entertainment editor for **The Advocate-Messenger**, will be among 25 journalists from across the country who will be in Los Angeles early next year to attend a National Endowment for Arts seminar for those who write about theater.

"What I am most looking forward to is working intensively with other art journalists, who, like me, have multiple beats to cover under the umbrella of the arts, and getting their feedback on how and what I write," Brummett said.

Brummett regularly writes about productions at Centre College, Pioneer Playhouse, West T. Hill Community Theatre and Ragged Edge Community Theater.

"That only can benefit me as a writer," Brummett said. "I anticipate their commentaries, and look to bring back fresh ideas and a new outlook on the theater aspect of my beat."

### Mike Moore comes to Jessamine Journal

After being without an editor since Nov. 11, **The Jessamine Journal** has hired **Mike Moore**, former editor of the Pikeville-based **Appalachian News-Express**.

Moore replaces long-time editor **Randy Patrick** who left the **Journal** after 10 years to become managing editor of **The Winchester Sun**.

"I love being a journalist," Moore said. "It's a great occupation and I've met many wonderful people along the way. I'm glad to be a part of an outstanding organization, and I'm looking forward to becoming a part of the Jessamine County community."

Prior to the **Journal**, Moore, 35, worked for the **News-Express**, the **Times-Tribune** in Corbin as sports writer before becoming sports editor and as a reporter/photographer for the **Phenix**

**Citizen** in Phenix City, Ala.

A self-proclaimed "military brat," Moore was born in Hiedleburg, Germany, to Bernice Moore and the late William L. Moore, where his father was stationed in the Army.

Moore has earned several newspaper awards from the Kentucky and Mississippi Press Associations.

He is a 1988 graduate of Pine Forest High School in Fayetteville, N.C., as well as a graduate of the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus with a bachelor of science degree in communications.

"One of the best things about being a "W" alum is it usually sparks some interesting conversations with folks I've just met," he said.

Moore is a veteran of the United States Air Force, serving from 1989-1995 as a health services management specialist. He is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm and Provide Comfort. During his time in the military, he was stationed in Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and Ankara, Turkey.

His immediate and extended family is located throughout Jackson, Madison, Fayette and Scott counties.

Moore resides in Nicholasville with his dog, a German Sheppard-Boarder Collie Mix, named Daisy.

### Laub becomes sports editor

**Abigail McWhorter Laub** is **The Jessamine Journal's** new sports editor.

She replaces **Josh Thomas**, who is now **The Journal's** graphic artist.

Laub, an Argyle, N.Y., native, is a 2005 graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism with a minor in psychology.

While in college, she was the sports editor, features editor and senior writer for PBA's weekly newspaper. She had multiple other journalism jobs and internships throughout college, including a magazine internship at Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs where she was a student for a semester, studying family and marriage relationships, worldviews and government. Laub also spent a semester studying in London and visiting eight different European countries.

She has been published in **Focus on the Family** magazine, with a circulation of over one million people, as well as on **Troubledwith.com**, and in several other **Focus on the Family** publications. She was an **Associated Press** stringer on election day this past November in Palm Beach County, and worked as an editorial intern for a newspaper similar to the **Jessamine Journal** in New York's Adirondack region.

Laub met her husband, Jeff, while in Colorado Springs. They were recently married on Dec. 3.