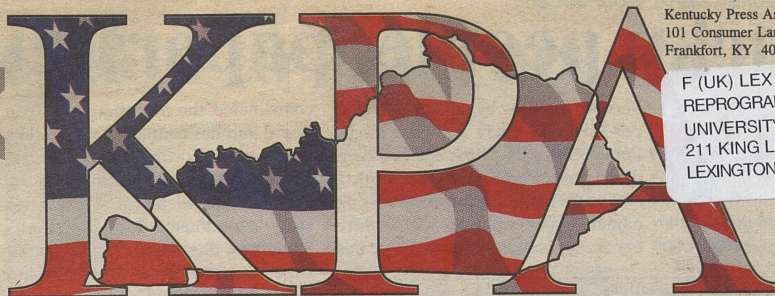


The
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Directories available at convention

The new edition of the Kentucky Press Association Yearbook and Directory will be available for you to pick up at the 2005 Winter Convention and Trade Show on Jan. 20-21 at the Hyatt Regency in Louisville.

The photo featured on this year's cover was made by Bob Dickerson, photographer with The Kentucky Post in Covington. It depicts Thoroughbreds on a Boone County farm in a snowstorm in early 2004.

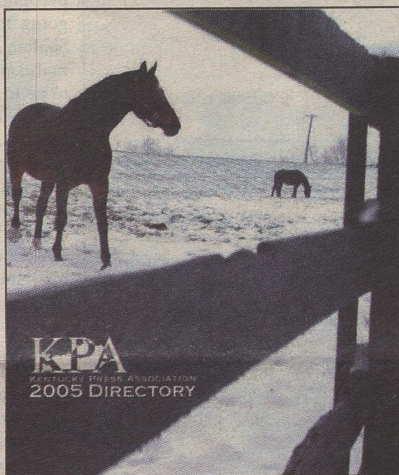
The directory isn't the only thing you will take home with you after attending the 2005 convention. You will be able to take home new ideas and information shared by the numerous

industry experts scheduled to conduct sessions at the convention on topics involving technology, NIE programs, advertising, management, sales, readership and sports coverage.

The convention kicks off at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 20 when the trade show booths open.

The first session of the convention will be from 1 to 4 p.m. when Tim Harrower, author of "The Newspaper Designer's Handbook," will entertain and educate the audience on the finer points of creating reader-friendly, award-winning pages. Seating is limited for this ses-

See AVAILABLE on Page 3



The cover of the 2005 KPA Directory was made by Kentucky Post photographer Bob Dickerson.

Recycled newsprint rates are good

It's the proverbial chicken or the egg discussion.

I really hadn't thought much about recycled newsprint in the last few years. The state didn't seem to think it was much of an issue and I couldn't find any legislators wanting to hear about it.

The issue is not the use of recycled newsprint. Kentucky newspapers, I think, have done a very commendable job of using as much recycled newsprint as possible in the last decade.

That's when Kentucky's landfill issues dominated much of the discussion in the state legislature. It consumed a good portion of two or three

On Second Thought

By David T. Thompson
KPA Executive Director



sessions as our lawmakers tried to figure out mandatory collection, bottle bills, recycling and how to keep landfill space available into the

future.

Newsprint and using recycled newsprint were part of the equation. Paper, be it newsprint, office paper, cardboard or similar products, could be recycled, could be used to make more of the same product or perhaps there were new products that could be made once it was recycled.

The discussions were interesting. Some legislation was proposed that newspapers had to take back every copy of every newspaper printed.

When that failed, another legislator saw a way for tobacco farmers to have an alternative crop. Soybeans. "Soybean Sam," as we came to know the late State Representative Sam McElroy, proposed that all news ink be made from soybeans produced in Kentucky. He was half serious, well maybe more than half serious, but he thought it would be a great alternative crop for tobacco farmers.

More serious discussions came as other states developed mandatory recycled newsprint consumption. Early on, states were targeting certain levels of aggregate tonnage. Some were shooting for an aggregate 40 to 50 percent recycled newsprint by the year 2000.

Kentucky ran that flag up the

See RECYCLED on Page 5

January News & Notes

Judges Needed for GPA, NPA contests

Looking for a contest to help judge? We have two of them lined up for you.

Thursday, February 17, KPA will be judging the Georgia Press Association news and advertising contests at the Embassy Suites in Lexington.

And on Friday, February 18, KPA will be judging the news and advertising contests for the Nebraska Press Association in Louisville at the Holiday Inn South - Fern Valley Road.

Both judgments begin at 8:30 a.m. (Eastern) with a continental breakfast and both require newsroom and advertising staff members. If you want to participate in one or both of the contest judgments, please call Sue Cammack at KPA, 800-264-5721, or e-mail her at scammack@kypress.com.

Former political writer Al Cross to be roasted

Kentucky politicians will finally get their chance to see on the griddle the newspaper political writer they've learned to love and to hate over the decades.

Al Cross, The Courier-Journal's longtime political writer and columnist, will be roasted on Monday, Feb. 28 in Frankfort. Cross left the newspaper in August to become interim director of the Institute for Rural Journalism & Community Issues at the University of Kentucky.

See NEWS on Page 10

Kentucky people, papers in the news

The **Central Kentucky News-Journal** in Campbellsville promoted news editor **Becky Dial** to editor. She was named news editor in March after former editor **Beth Foster** accepted a general manager's job at a sister publication in Mt.

Vernon, Ind. She began her newspaper career 18 years ago as a receptionist. Since that time she has handled proofreading, social writing and some bookkeeping before being named staff writer in 1998. Since becoming news editor, Dial has

coordinated the inception of a Teen Board and has continued to handle a variety of reporting and photography duties. She designs many of the front and jump pages, coordinates story assignments for special sections and the regular paper, and supervises a staff of three full and four part-time employees.

The **Grant County News** sponsored its second annual Wild & Woolly Pet Photo Contest this fall. Participants were asked to donate \$1 per photo entry with all proceeds going to the Grant County Animal Shelter. The staff presented the animal control officer a check for \$300 to go to the shelter.

The **Kentucky Standard** recently hired **David Mann** as a reporter/photographer. He will cover a variety of topics for the Bardstown newspaper including county government, courts and Bloomfield City Council. He began his journalism career at the University of Louisville as a sports writer for the school's independent student newspaper, **The Louisville Cardinal**. His first job out of college was as a staff writer for **The News-Democrat** in Carrollton.

Chris Phelps is the newest member of the Advance Yeoman staff. He will be serving as the sports reporter of the Lacer paper. Phelps, 24, is originally from Fulton, Ind. and attended Ancilla College in Plymouth, Ind. He received a degree in computer networking. He is currently attending Mid-Continent College in Mayfield where he has played baseball for two years. He is studying social studies education. At Mid-Continent Phelps served as the editor of the school's newspaper, **The Continent**, for two years.

Kay Williams, a carrier for **The Courier-Journal**, was recently asked to "come on down" for a recent episode of *The Price is Right*. She taped the show in late August and it aired on Nov. 11.

The **Commonwealth Journal** in Somerset added a Health and Fitness magazine to its niche product lineup in late November. **Southern Kentucky Health & Fitness Journal** will be published at the end of each month, featuring the latest news and views from the

expanding regional health care and fitness industry. The glossy magazine-style publication will be distributed in the Commonwealth Journal the final Sunday of each month. An additional 2,000 copies will be available in free pickup racks strategically located in high foot-traffic areas in Somerset and area doctors' offices and fitness facilities. The newspaper also redesigned its **Southern Kentucky Family Magazine** in December. **Lisa Rowell** was also hired by the newspaper to be lead layout and design coordinator for the newly created **Commonwealth Journal** niche product department.

Linda Dobson called an end to her 32-year career at the **Central Kentucky News-Journal** as circulation manager when she retired on Nov. 19. She began her newspaper career as a part-time insert collator at the old **Central Kentucky News** and then was added to the full-time staff as a receptionist.

Crystal Anderson was promoted to circulation manager at the **Central Kentucky News-Journal** following the retirement of **Linda Dobson**. Anderson has been working as a backup in circulation since her original hire in July. Originally from Florida, Anderson is a graduate of Campbellsville University with a degree in sociology and theater. She worked at the university as a secretary in the development office among other secretarial-type jobs while a student. She is an accomplished photographer and has worked as a correspondent photographer for the KKNJ in the past.

The **Journal-Enquirer** in Grayson and **The Olive Hill Times** have launched a comprehensive Web site **Journal-Times On-Line Edition** as part of continuing efforts to bring the best possible news product to the people of Carter and surrounding counties. The Web site at www.journal-times.com can be updated daily if needed to bring readers more comprehensive information. The site also offers a community calendar, public opinion, letters to the editor, weather, a Google search, access to national news and

See PEOPLE on Page 12

The Kentucky Press

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

KPA convention to embrace the future

We are just days away from the 2005 KPA convention on Jan. 20 and 21 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Louisville. The

convention will be full of interesting activities and workshops ranging from InDesign pagination training to a tour of The Courier-Journal's new state-of-the-art, computer-controlled printing plant. But there's one session in particular that's caught my eye.

It's the 90-minute session called "Embracing new technology in 2005." It will start at 1:45 p.m. on Jan. 21. Jim Sterling and Roger Fidler, two former newspapermen-turned-college-professors at the

Oh, By The Way

By David Greer
KPA Member Services
Director



University of Missouri, will give us a glimpse into the future of newspaper technology. Sterling is a former publisher and president of the Missouri Press Association while Fidler formerly served as corporate director of new media for Knight Ridder and explored that company's new media and electronic publishing opportunities.

Beyond that, we will just have to wait and see - or wait and hear - about new media research the duo is conducting now at Missouri. Fidler is working on something he calls the digital newsbook which combines features of print and the Internet. It sounds like fascinating work.

I read recently about the daily in Wilmington, Del., and its efforts to put news video on the paper's web site. In addition, the paper produces a couple of daily newscasts with an anchor and links them to its site.

With so many digital cameras - even those that are modestly priced - capable of generating several seconds of video, it appears the future of newspaper Web sites could be moving - albeit slowly - toward some sort of combining of print and broadcast news. At least that's what some industry pundits are predicting. If you've read about research into so-called electronic ink, you know that some are predicting a world in the future where simple paper will be capable of displaying moving comics and maybe even color video.

If and when that occurs, the distinction between print and broadcast journalism will have been sufficiently blurred to forever change the way people think of journalism and newspapers.

Unlike the gloom and doom crowd, I think newspapers have a terrific future ahead of them although the newspaper of the future may not be the traditional static product on conventional paper that we know and love today.

KHSJA UPDATE. At press time, the Kentucky High School Journalism Association stood at 103 members for the 2004-05 school year. That compares to 97 members last year. Thanks to all the many Kentucky newspapers that have sponsored local schools. I will have an update on sponsors next month.

AG Opinions

The Ledger Independent/ Department of State Police

The Kentucky Attorney General's office was asked to decide whether the Department of State Police violated the Open Records Act in denying The Ledger Independent's Oct. 22 request for copies of audio and videotapes made during the investigation of the Dec. 16, 2002 murders of Ryan Matchison and Adam Harvey.

In her request, Ledger Independent reporter Betty Coutant said that it had been more than a year since all four of the accused were sentenced and the possibility for appeals is over. She said the commonwealth's attorney saw no reason Kentucky State Police should not release these tapes.

In response, Department of State Police Records Custodian Deborah M. Arnold advised that the requested information is part of an investigation that is still open and denied the request on the basis of KRS 61.878(1)(h). After receiving the denial, The Ledger Independent initiated the appeal with the AG's office reiterating the opinion of the commonwealth's attorney that it was too late for an appeal and question how the case could be classified

as open when all four defendants are in jail.

The Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Assistant General Counsel Roger Wright amplified on the Department's position stating that the commonwealth's attorney advised him that there is a post-trial motion to destroy evidence pending as well as the possibility of collateral attack on the judgments of conviction.

The commonwealth's attorney advised the AG's office that after advising the newspaper that he didn't see any reason why the state police shouldn't turn over the tapes, he learned that one or more of the defendants were considering filing a motion to overturn the conviction based upon ineffective assistance of counsel and that the defendants have three years to file such a motion.

On that basis, Wright asserted that the reports are not currently releasable pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(h) and KRS 17.150(2).

The AG's office found that the arguments advanced by the Department of State Police are fully supported by law and therefore it affirms the Department's denial of the request.

AVAILABLE

Continued from page 1

session and it is open to newspaper personnel and students. A separate registration fee is required for the seminar.

There will also be a tour of the Courier-Journal's new state-of-the-art printing plant. A bus will be available for the short trip from the hotel to the plant at 2 p.m. Bus seating will be limited to 30 people.

The first day of the convention will wrap with an opening reception at 6 p.m.

A full day of activities begins at 8 a.m. Friday when the trade show and the registration desk open. Sessions begin at 9 a.m. See Page 8 for a complete list of sessions and speakers.

Kevin Slimp, a syndicated columnist and adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee College of Communications, will conduct a seminar from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on InDesign, the software that is quickly becoming a major player in the pagination world. This session is also open to newspaper personnel and students. Seating will be limited for this

session and there is a separate registration fee required.

The annual Changing of the Guard Lunch will be held at noon on Friday. John Nelson, 2004 KPA President and managing editor of The Advocate Messenger in Danville, will pass the gavel to Charlie Portmann, editor of The Franklin Favorite, as he becomes the 120th president of the Kentucky Press Association.

The Freedom Sings performers, who celebrate the 18th Amendment in song, are scheduled to provide the luncheon entertainment.

At 6 p.m., after an afternoon of sessions, the KPA Excellence in Kentucky Newspapers Contest Awards Reception begins with the highly anticipated contest banquet following at 7 p.m.

The awards video presentation will be shown after dinner and plaques and certificates along with a complete list of winners can be picked up immediately following the banquet.

At 9:30, the KPA President's Reception is set to begin.

For more information on convention or to register to attend, contact Sue Cammack at 1-800-264-5721.

Invasion of privacy basics in Kentucky Law

By Jon Fleischaker
KPA General
Counsel
Dinsmore & Shohl



Everyone has the right to be left alone. This has been quoted as the basic intent behind the right of privacy in Kentucky and elsewhere. Of course, the law of invasion of privacy is not quite so simple. Under Kentucky law, invasion of privacy actually covers four different kinds of lawsuits. The good news is that liability for each of them can be avoided by using a handful of straightforward common sense rules of thumb.

Four Kinds of Invasion of Privacy

Kentucky, like most states, recognizes four separate invasion of privacy claims (also called torts). Although they all stem from the right to be left alone, they work in very different ways.

(1) **The unreasonable intrusion into the seclusion of another.** This claim can be compared to snooping or spying. To qualify as this form of invasion of privacy, the intrusion must be highly offensive and intentional and involve a person's "zone of privacy," which is that sphere of space or subject matter in which a reasonable person has an expectation of privacy. Examples include sneaking into someone's house or hotel room, reading someone's mail or email without permission, and wiretapping. In recent years, this claim has often arisen in police "ride-alongs" during which reporters accompanied police in the execution of searches of a suspect's home.

It is important to remember that this form of invasion of privacy is a pure newsgathering claim and does not require the publication of any

private information. While the press has a First Amendment right to gather news, it must do so lawfully. Important questions to ask under this category are whether the information is gathered legally (e.g., was trespassing, wiretapping, etc. involved?), and whether the "sphere of privacy" was breached (e.g., one's home, hospital room, or private mail), or whether the conduct or information is in the public sphere (e.g., was it gathered on the public streets or from publicly accessible government records?). The consent of the subject is always a defense to this claim.

The U.S. Supreme Court has also recently held that the First Amendment protects the press from liability for publishing information that may have been unlawfully obtained by a third party without the help or authorization of the press. For example, a reporter who participates in hacking someone's email would be liable, while a reporter who merely receives transcripts of a wiretapped telephone call from an unknown informant would be protected.

(2) **The unauthorized use of someone's name or image.** This form of invasion of privacy can sometimes be compared to trademark infringement. It involves using someone's name, photograph, or likeness for profit or for some other benefit. The classic example is using a celebrity's photograph in an advertisement without permission. The press has also been held liable for the use of slogans and other features specific to an individual's identity and for "giving away" performances for which performers charge admission. It is as much a right of publicity as it is a right of privacy.

Critical questions to ask under this tort are whether the name or

image would make a reasonable person believe the subject endorses a particular product and whether the subject has consented to the use of his or her name or image. Of course, names and images may always be used in connection with legitimate news.

(3) **Unreasonable publication of private facts.** This form of invasion of privacy is often asserted against newspapers and broadcast outlets because it generally requires publication to the general public. It is like the intrusion on seclusion tort but with the added element of publication. Examples of the kinds of private facts that fall under this tort are details of a person's sex life, a person's medical information, the contents of personal communications, and photographs taken in private. It does not matter that such facts are true, except in circumstances where such facts are legitimately newsworthy.

Important points to keep in mind are that the facts must be both highly offensive and not legitimately newsworthy. For example, publishing a story about a police officer's sex life would probably qualify as an unreasonable publication of private facts. However, where the police officer has been disciplined for an inappropriate sexual relationship in the line of duty or has been sued for sex harassment, the details forming the basis of those actions are newsworthy and may be published even though they are about the officer's sex life.

(4) **False Light.** This form of invasion of privacy is very similar to defamation and is difficult to categorize. It involves portraying a person to the public in a way that implies things about the person that are not true and that are offensive to a reasonable person. Making up quotes,

embellishing actual events, and using file photographs out of context (e.g., to illustrate a crime and corruption story) are prime examples. By definition, truth is an absolute defense to false light invasion of privacy. Another defense, much like the actual malice defense to defamation, is that information concerning public figures or about issues of public concern was published with the good-faith belief in its truth.

Privileges & Defenses

The press is usually protected from liability for invasion of privacy if one of several privileges or defenses apply. Generally, the publication of information gathered from public records or obtained in public meetings will not subject the press to liability. Likewise, the publication of information regarding issues of public concern is protected by the First Amendment, unless it is published with the knowledge that it is false.

The best rule of thumb for avoiding liability for invasion of privacy was summed up by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1989 case of *Florida Star v. B.J.F.* In that case, the court held that the First Amendment protected a newspaper that published a rape victim's name even though a Florida law prohibited the disclosure of rape victims' names. The Court held that damages for invasion of privacy cannot be awarded against a party publishing truthful information obtained by lawful means about a matter of public significance.

If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact your Hotline attorneys:

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ARK adds newspapers to its statewide program

Kentucky Press Service hit another milestone with the addition of 14 weeklies and two daily newspapers to the Ads reaching Kentucky (ARK) program

Advertising Plus

By Teresa Revelett
KPS Director of Sales



for 2005. That brings the number to a total of 104 participating newspapers. There are 19 daily newspapers and 85 weekly newspapers taking part for 2005.

The program is structured so that each paper is paid 42¢ per column

inch per thousand circulation. That makes it fair for everyone participating.

This next year two daily newspapers will come on board - The Kentucky Enquirer and The Kentucky Post, both based in Covington. On the weekly side, these newspapers have joined the ARK program: Beattyville Enterprise, Cave City Barren County Progress, Central City Times Argus, Edmonton

Metcalf County Light, Edmonton News Herald, Ft. Campbell Courier, Grayson Journal Enquirer, London Sentinel Echo, Manchester Enterprise, Morehead News, Munfordville Hart County News Herald, Salyersville Independent, Tompkinsville Monroe Co. Citizen and Whitley City McCreary County Voice.

With these additions, the total circulation of the ARK program is 995,575. That's real close to one million, folks. That will be one of our goals for the ARK program this year - we will strive to find another news-

paper or newspapers to add to the list that will boost the circulation to over one million.

Since Stephanie Conrad took over the program in June 2004, she has sold 59 ARK ads. That is an average of 8.5 ads per month. This year we would like for that average to go up to at least 10 ads per month.

For advertisers, the cost of advertising in this network is still a real bargain. For a 2 column by 2 inch ad the cost is \$2,000. A 2x3 is \$3,000 and a 2x4 is \$4,000. Where else can you reach such a captive audience for that kind of money?

RECYCLED

Continued from page 1

pole, too. But with the help of some Canadian government officials coming to Frankfort, we were able to convince the legislature that mandating certain levels of recycled newsprint would not be in the best interest.

Those, Canadian officials, representing several mills north of the border, said that as more and more states mandated higher levels, the mills would not be able to supply the mandates. A few states could impose higher levels and it would be workable. If most, or all, states did so, the mills couldn't comply.

There was another argument from some U.S. mills.

And actually, it's more of the truth than any other part.

If Kentucky mandates certain percentages, then large newsprint customers will receive preference and smaller plants won't get any recycled newsprint.

That was the issue we focused on with the legislature. Newspapers will do everything possible to use recycled newsprint. They editorialize about the landfill situations and that all Kentuckians should use as much recycled material as possible. Or at least get involved in recycling projects.

We pointed out that with mandates, some printing plants would be able to demand higher percentages of recycled fiber, while the smaller plants would be squeezed out and most likely forced to use a lot of virgin newsprint.

In the end, Kentucky did not end

up with a mandate law. Instead, the legislature only required publishers to fill annual reports with the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet. The reports would show how much newsprint and recycled newsprint the newspaper used in the previous calendar year.

While that legislation passed, it really wasn't realistic. Individual publishers have no idea how much newsprint their newspaper takes each year. Their newspapers are shipped off to one of some 40 printing plants around the state and it's those plants, not the publishers, that have the figures.

So while the law still reads "publishers shall file," we were able to work out a process with the state cabinet that allows KPA to compile the information from the printing plants and file one report on behalf of the industry.

The first was filed in 1994 for calendar year 1993.

The legislation also required a state task force to be formed, they meet regularly, to develop recycling methods and more products that could be made from recycling and to report annually to a legislative subcommittee.

The task force was developed. KPA had a couple of slots on the task force and as required by law, it met periodically for a couple of years. To my recollection, it's not met since 1996 and in fact, I've stopped submitting task force members names to the governor's office because the cabinet didn't call meetings and other industries didn't make nominations.

Not requiring mandated levels of

recycled newsprint was, and remains, the best approach. I'm convinced of that regardless of what others might feel. I'd much rather have a structure where every plant can get good levels of recycled fiber, than to think that a few could mandate aggregate tonnage levels of 50 percent fiber, leaving a bulk of the plants to rely on virgin newsprint.

The process has worked. Over the past 10 years of reporting, Kentucky printing plants have seen use of recycled newsprint be as much as 98 percent of the newsprint used in a year. It's fluctuated some, more of that based on issues at the mills, not the newspapers' interest or willingness to use recycled newsprint.

Mills have had problems producing recycled newsprint that is as consistent with its "runability" or "stretchability" as virgin newsprint. One of the things that we told the legislature was that as long as recycled newsprint was affordable, and as long as it didn't keep tearing or breaking during press runs, the lawmakers could count on newspapers doing their share.

In the last couple of years, though, there have been issues with the "runability" and in a few cases, more virgin newsprint might be used.

And as the laws keep going, and as more and more people get into recycling, testimony from the mills proves true. If I recall testimony correctly from the mills, newsprint can only be recycled four to five times. Each time it's processed for newsprint, recycled fibers lose their strength and length. So the fibers get shorter and shorter until they can't be used anymore.

Kentucky newspaper plants had a stretch from 1994 until 2001 where 90 percent or more of the newsprint consumed contained some level of recycled fiber. It reached a high of 98.2382 percent in 2001 and I contend that was the highest level of recycled newsprint used in the U.S. In other years, (1996 and 2000 being notable), the use was second or third highest in the nation.

We have fallen below 80 percent only two of the last 10 years, once at 76 percent and more recently, 2003, at 66 percent. Both percentages are attributable to issues at the mills. In one, a mill producing 100 recycled newsprint was unable to produce much at all and levels fell to much lower percentages. And in the other, a mill produced recycled newsprint but the quality became an issue when the newsprint didn't meet the "runability" needs.

We've filed 11 annual reports in all (calendar year 1993 through calendar year 2003). We'll file 2004 later this spring. But in those 11 reports, 86.31 percent of the newsprint used has contained some level of recycled fiber. Be it 10 percent or 25 percent, 50 percent or 100 percent, I don't see as the issue.

I see it as newspapers saying we'll do all we can. I see it as all newsprint plants, thus all 170 or so newspapers are able to say they use recycled newsprint as the issue.

There might be some state officials who feel differently but as I've written in most every cover letter with the report, Kentucky newspapers should be commended for maintaining high levels of recycled newsprint use.

Gamblin bids farewell to reporting career

Reprinted from *The Messenger in Madisonville with permission*

By **LORI HARRISON**
Messenger staff writer

Garth Gamblin has chronicled court trials and profiled ordinary citizens in the pages of *The Messenger* for more than two decades — pecking out each story on the keyboard using just his right index finger.

His left arm is drawn up from cerebral palsy, which he's had since birth, and his speech is garbled.

Yet, his stories flow gracefully. "I've always wanted to be a writer," Gamblin said, responding to questions by typing out his answers. "I can't imagine not being a writer. I never expected to be a reporter because of my communication limitations. I had dreams of sitting in an ivory tower writing great short stories and the great American novel.

"I'm more shocked than anyone that I ended up being a reporter," he said.

Gamblin's career in journalism will come to a close Dec. 30 with his retirement at age 65.

"Ten years ago, I was hell-bent on working until I was 70," he said. "I could with my cerebral palsy, but since arthritis set up housekeeping in my left knee, it takes more energy to get around. When I started in '80, I walked to the courthouse every day in all kinds of weather. A couple of months ago, it took me 30 minutes to walk the block from the courthouse. I used to do it in five minutes."

Gamblin also said he's not writing as many stories as in the past.

"Fifteen years ago, I owned the front page two and three times a week," he said. "I can't remember the last time I owned it."

Selling greeting cards door-to-door was Gamblin's first job. He later owned and operated a magazine/book store in Earlington. This experience taught him — and others — that he could work with the public.

He started writing for *The*

Messenger in November 1965, with a column called *The Earl's Beat* ... by *The Earl of Earlington*.

"It was mostly about life in a small town, though at times the small town became the world," Gamblin said. "Though I shudder when I think about some of the things I wrote about — when I was drawing a blank, I'd open the dictionary, pick out a word and write a column about it — I actually won a second place (Kentucky Press Association) award for those *Earl Beats*."

A former staff member told him he was the first *Messenger* writer to win a KPA award.

After a police shooting in 1970 sparked a riot in Earlington, former Editor Jim Walker asked him to cover the City Council there as a correspondent. He was paid by the story.

...

Gamblin was 35 years old before he learned to drive.

"Everybody told me I couldn't, and I believed them," he said.

While running the bookstore, he would go to the adjoining barber-shop every evening after closing time and have a beer or two before going home. On a bulletin board in the shop hung a notice listing a 1959 Chevrolet station wagon that was for sale for \$150.

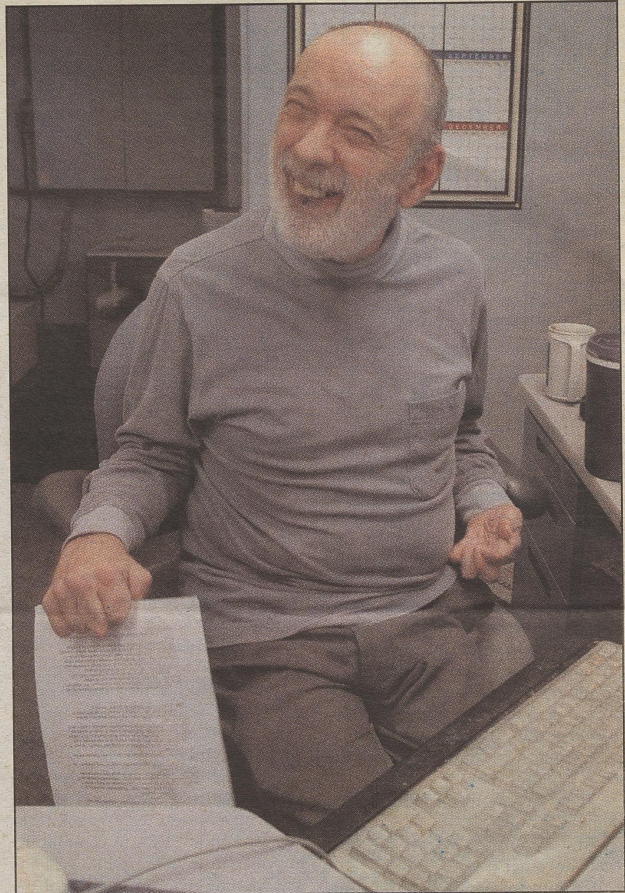
A local businessman came in one night "two shades to the wind," Gamblin said. He saw the notice and asked if the car was any good. The barber said it was, and Gamblin added that he'd buy it if he thought he could drive.

"He looked me in the eye and said, 'I think you can drive and to prove it, I'm going to buy it for you,'" Gamblin said. "The next morning, he brought a check to me."

It took Gamblin a year to convince state officials to let him take his driver's test.

"The barber, a mailman, his deaf son, a school custodian and my neighbor taught me to drive," he said.

Talking to another visitor to the shop landed Gamblin in a story on



Garth Gamblin didn't let his cerebral palsy keep him from becoming a successful reporter at *The Messenger* in Madisonville. His last day at the newspaper was Dec. 30.

the front page of *The Courier-Journal* — and in a bit of hot water. The topic was girls basketball, which the General Assembly had ordered Kentucky high schools to implement in fall 1974.

"The Earlington school was running on a shoestring and had very little money to put into the program," he said. "Earlington ended up drafting a teacher to coach the team. ...

The first-year team won one game all year. In all fairness, it was the most enthusiastic team I had ever seen. Their spirit put the boys

to shame."

A *Courier-Journal* sports editor came to his shop one afternoon, thumbed through a few magazines, then asked Gamblin his opinion of the girls team.

"Like an idiot, I said the first thing that came to my mind — 'They're not worth a dime,'" Gamblin said.

The following Sunday, he saw his words in the first paragraph of a story in the Louisville newspaper.

"He quoted me word for word," Gamblin said. "The only time in my

See **GAMBLIN** on Page 11

Gannett Co. Inc. buys HomeTown newspapers

Gannett Co. Inc. has agreed to acquire the assets of the owner of Hometown Communications Network Inc., a community publishing company with newspapers, telephone directories, shoppers and niche publications in Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan.

Terms of the deal, which is subject to regulatory review, were not disclosed.

Hometown Communications Network features one daily and 62 weekly and twice-weekly community newspapers, with an aggregate, audited circulation greater than 740,000. The network also includes 24 community telephone directories with a total distribution of nearly 1,500,000; one shopping guide; and 18 other specialty and niche publications. The company has a digital operation, with Web sites and Web-based services including design and

production, as well as commercial typesetting and printing from four plants.

The newspaper group includes the recently launched Daily Press and Argus in fast-growing Livingston County, Mich., and non-daily groups in the suburban areas near Detroit, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky and Lansing, Mich.

"HomeTown's publications are an excellent fit with Gannett's operations in these growth areas of Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky," said Gary Watson, president of Gannett's Newspaper Division. "We're very pleased that company founder Philip Power and his wife Kathleen looked to Gannett when they decided to retire. The Powers made very smart decisions in the nearly 40 years they owned and operated HomeTown and we plan to continue in that tradition."

"Gannett is one of the world's largest newspaper companies, with a demonstrated track record of capable professional management, great financial stability and high community involvement I wanted the newspapers, telephone directories and other publications that I spent so much of my career building to wind up in good hands after I left. I believe Gannett's hands are the best available," said Philip Powers, HomeTown's chairman.

HomeTown has approximately 780 employees. Revenues are expected to exceed \$86 million in 2004. Gannett Co. Inc. is a leading international news and information company that publishes 101 daily newspapers in the USA, including USA Today, the nation's largest-selling daily newspaper. The company also owns more than 660 non-daily publications in the United States

and USA Weekend, a weekly newspaper magazine.

The Community Press and Recorder newspapers: The Bethel Journal, The Boone County Recorder, The Boone Community Recorder, The Campbell Community Recorder, The Campbell County Recorder, Community Journal Clemont, Community Journal North Clemont, The Community Recorder, Community Press Mason & Deerfield, Delhi Press, Eastern Hills Journal, The Erlanger-Recorder, The Fort Thomas Recorder, The Florence Recorder, Forest Hills Journal, Indian Hill Journal, Hilltop Press, The Kenton Community Recorder, Loveland Herald, Milford-Miami Advertiser, Northeast Suburban Life, Northwest Press, Price Hill Press, Suburban Life, Tri-County Press and Western Hills Press.

NAA expects rise in ad spending in 2005

Vienna, Va. - Marketers will increase their spending on newspaper advertising by about 4.1 percent in the coming year to \$48.6 billion, according to the Newspaper Association of America's 2005 forecast for the newspaper business.

James Conaghan, NAA vice president of research and business analysis, presented the forecast in early December at the 32nd Annual Media Week Conference in New York.

Total ad spending in 2004 is projected to be \$46.7 billion, up 3.9 percent from 2003. (Newspaper advertising expenditures for the first nine months of 2004 totaled \$33.0 billion, according to preliminary estimates released last month by NAA.)

The three primary advertising categories are all expected to show growth for the second straight year, according to the NAA. Forecasts in ad categories:

- National ad performance in 2005 will show modest increases (about 5.0 percent) as the overall

economy expands. Conaghan forecasts national ad spending in 2005 to be \$8.5 billion, up 5 percent from a 2004 projection of \$8.1 billion.

- The 2005 forecast for retail advertising sales is \$22.7 billion, up 3.0 percent from the 2004 projection of \$22.0 billion. Consumers experiencing an improving labor market may help bolster retail ad sales, Conaghan said.

- Classified ad spending could reach \$17.4 billion in 2005, up 5.2 percent from the 2004 projection of \$16.6 billion.

While advances in classified ad spending in 2004 were supported by the cyclical rebound in employment advertising and real estate ads, the classified outlook in 2005 may feature a different mix as a rising interest rate environment is factored into the ad spending strategies of real estate and auto marketers. The NAA expects continued performance improvement for employment as the labor market strengthens, Conaghan said.

Have an item
you'd like
included in the
People and
Papers section?

Send it to Dana Lear, KPA
News Bureau Director, at
dlear@kypress.com.

Deadline is the 20th of
each month.

2005 KPA Winter Convention Agenda

Thursday, January 20

8 a.m. Trade Show Set Up

10 a.m. KPA/KPS Board of Directors Meeting

11 a.m. Trade Show Opens

Noon KPA/KPS Board of Directors Luncheon

1-4 p.m. KPA News Editorial Division/KPA College Student Seminar/KHSJA

Tim Harrower

Author of "The Newspaper Designer's Handbook," Tim Harrower is a nationally known design expert. He has been an award-winning editor, designer and columnist at such papers as the Times-Union in Rochester, N.Y., and The Oregonian in Portland. Claiming to run a dog and frog ranch in Oregon, Tim is known for entertaining audiences with his keen wit while educating them on the finer points of creating reader-friendly, award-winning pages. For the past 15 years, he has been consulting on redesigns and lecturing on journalism. His new book, "The Newspaper Reporter's Handbook," will be published this year. **Seating will be limited for this session.** (Separate registration fee required. Seminar fee is not included in the \$45 convention registration fee.)

2-3:30 p.m. Courier-Journal printing plant tour

Visit one of North America's most state-of-the-art newspaper printing plants. Board a bus at 2 p.m. at the Hyatt for the short trip to the Courier-Journal plant. See the computer-controlled presses that feature an automatic paper-roll loading system and produce remarkable color photos and ads. The new plant also features an impressive conveyor system. We will reboard the bus at the plant at 3:15 p.m. for the return to the Hyatt. **Note: Bus seating will be limited to 30.**

6 p.m. Opening Reception - Trade Show Area

7:15 p.m. Opening Reception Ends -

Dinner On Your Own

Friday, January 21

8 a.m. Trade Show and Registration Desk Opens

8 a.m. KPA Business Meeting

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. KPA News Editorial Division/KPA Ad Division/KHSJA

Kevin Slimp

Technology guru Kevin Slimp, a syndicated columnist and adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee College of Communications, will conduct a three-hour training session on InDesign, the software that is quickly becoming a major player in the pagination world. Seating will be limited for this session. (Separate registration fee required. Registration fee is not included in the \$45 convention registration fee.)

9 a.m. KPA Ad Division

Increasing classified revenue at your paper

Susan Pryce

A 24-year newspaper veteran, Susan Pryce presents creative ways to increase classified ad revenue. She has been an ad rep, ad manager, marketing director and associate publisher. Susan has conducted dozens of training seminars for the American Press Institute, National Newspaper Association, Inland Press and many state press associations. This is a one-hour session.

9 a.m. Tools for better managing your newspaper

Mike Anders and Debbie Crawford Anders

This is a must-attend two-hour session for publishers and general managers. Learn valuable tools you can use to improve every aspect of your operation. Ad, circulation, marketing and plant managers, in addition to editors and others will find it very useful too. Mike and Debbie work primarily with small-market newspapers with issues including ad sales, profitability, productivity, work processes, measurement systems, strategy and acquisitions. Mike is the former publisher

of The News-Enterprise in Elizabethtown and Debbie has extensive experience in newspaper and cable TV ad sales.

9 a.m. KPA News Editorial Division/KPA College Student Seminar

Go figure - Math made easy for journalists

Matt Baron

Sometimes journalists and math mix like oil and water. But here is the perfect remedy for you and your math-challenged staff. Matt Baron, a 20-year reporting veteran who now covers three communities for the Chicago Tribune, champions what he calls "numeracy" or mathematical literacy for fellow journalists. In this one-hour session, Matt guides journalists in how to use numbers effectively and powerfully, as well as how to detect those sources who use statistics to cover up or put a sneaky spin on the real story.

9 a.m. KPA Circulation Division

The ABC's of NIE

Dana Plewka

Dana Plewka joined the Denver Post as NIE manager in June 1999 at the height of one of the last remaining newspaper wars. A joint-operating agreement between the Post and the Rocky Mountain News in January 2001 brought a truce and a combining of NIE staffs followed in April 2001. Dana started the NIE program at the Fresno Bee in 1984 and served there as educational services coordinator until her move to Denver. Attend this 90-minute session to learn how to pump up the volume of your NIE program.

10 a.m. KPA Ad Division

Selling Excellence

Bill McCartney

Selling Excellence will increase your lineage and put fun into every sales call. Sales people's ability to consistently enjoy success, or merely endure an epic struggle to scrape together enough lineage to sometimes meet their goals, hinges on a few basics. Some people seem to be born with those skills, while most spend years trying to figure them out. In our three-hour *Selling*

Excellence session, Bill McCartney, President of Aristo, will unpack four skills that are guaranteed to increase sales and put fun into every sales call. Specifically, sales people will leave knowing how to: use the six types of motivations that drive their accounts' buying decisions, select words and phrases to clearly communicate their ideas, close more sales and develop their customers respect, and reach their personal and professional goals. This is a session you don't want to miss!

10 a.m. KPA News Editorial Division

The Future of Tobacco and Its Communities: A Rural Reporting Project

Al Cross

Al Cross, interim director of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, talks about a project he plans to undertake with his students at the University of Kentucky, those at partner schools in other tobacco states, and perhaps newspapers in those states and Kentucky - the future of tobacco and tobacco communities in the wake of the buyout, and an examination of whether tobacco-settlement funds are really developing the agricultural economy in the way that state policymakers intended. Al spent 16 years as the chief political writer for The Courier-Journal prior to joining the Institute.

10:45 a.m. KPA Circulation Division/KPA News Editorial Division

Attracting more young readers

Jim Lenahan

For years, many newspapers have talked about attracting younger readers. Now, The Courier-Journal has done something about it by launching Velocity, a free weekly magazine geared toward readers 25 to 34 years old. Jim is the editor. He and his staff have spent the past year building Velocity from the ground up and figuring out what attracts younger readers and what doesn't. Velocity launched in December 2003 and is distributed at

See AGENDA on Page 11

AGENDA

Continued from page 8

more than 1,400 locations in a 13-county area.

11 a.m. KPA News Editorial Division/KPA College Student Seminar

Have faith - covering religion in your newspaper
Paul Prather

Readership surveys often tell us readers want more coverage of religion in their local paper. But papers don't always follow through. Paul Prather is a writer and rural minister who lives in Mount Sterling. He has written extensively about matters of faith and values for several Kentucky papers but is probably best-known for his work at the Lexington Herald-Leader from 1990 to 1997 where he now serves as a contributing columnist. He also has written three books and was a finalist for the national Cornell Prize for religion writing. The gospel on reporting matters of faith, according to Paul, runs one hour.

11 a.m. KPA News Editorial Division

Covering sports - making the best of available resources

A panel of sports editors and writers from around Kentucky. Regardless of the size of a newspaper's sports department, readers' expectations will always be higher

than your available resources. Hear a panel of sports editors and writers discuss how they get the most from their staffs and other challenges common to all papers and sports staffs - regardless of size. Panelists include Larry Vaught, Advocate-Messenger, Danville; Bobby Brockman, Central Kentucky News Journal, Campbellsville; Susan Riddell, Frankfort State Journal; and Harry Bryan, The Courier-Journal.

Noon Changing of the Guard

Lunch - Featuring Freedom Sings
2004 KPA President John Nelson, managing editor of the Advocate-Messenger in Danville, passes the gavel to Charlie Portmann, editor of the Franklin Favorite. The Freedom Sings performers, who celebrate the First Amendment in song, will provide entertainment. Sponsored by CNHI and KPA.

1:45 p.m. KPA Ad Division

Maximizing your ad staff's performance

Bill McCartney
This is the one-hour conclusion of Bill's morning session.

1:45 p.m. KPA New Media

Division/KPA Ad Division/KPA News Editorial Division

Embracing new technology in 2005

Jim Sterling and Roger Fidler
Spend 90 minutes with former newspapermen-turned-professors Jim Sterling and Roger Fidler, from the University of Missouri, and have

a take a glimpse into the future of newspaper technology. Sterling returned to his alma mater in 2000 to restore the community newspaper and newspaper management program at MU. In the 30 years prior to the move, he was publisher of four weekly papers in southwest Missouri. He is a past president of the Missouri Press Association and now serves on the NNA board. Fidler, a longtime newspaper veteran, is spending the 2004-05 academic year at the Missouri School of Journalism where he expects to launch a digital newsbook edition of the Columbia Missourian. The digital newsbook format, which he developed, blends the familiar and compelling features of print and Web. Fidler served as the first corporate director of new media for Knight Ridder and headed the company's Information Design Laboratory, which he established in 1992 to explore emerging online and electronic publishing opportunities for newspapers. You will not want to miss this session highlighting new media research being conducted now at MU.

1:45 p.m. KPA Associates Division

Kentucky's Literacy Challenges: Short and Long Term

A panel of experts on education and literacy

Dr. Tom Layzell, president, Council on Postsecondary Education; Virginia G. Fox, secretary, Kentucky Education Cabinet; and Sharon

Darling, president and founder, National Center For Family Literacy, located in Louisville, will discuss ways to win Kentucky's ongoing battle with literacy. This session will run 75 minutes.

3 p.m. KPA Ad Division

The Dos and Don'ts of employment ads

Kellie R. Watson

Increase your understanding of the acceptable and unacceptable language for employment ads that run in your paper. Ad managers and ad reps should not miss this 60-minute session. Kellie R. Watson is executive director of the Louisville Metro Government Human Relations Commission. The agency is responsible for enforcement of anti-discrimination ordinances in employment, housing, hate crimes and public accommodations.

3 p.m. Scholastic Journalism Meeting

College journalism educators from across Kentucky will meet to discuss issues of mutual interest.

6-7 p.m. KPA Excellence in Kentucky Newspapers Contest Awards Reception

7-9:30 p.m. KPA Excellence in Kentucky Newspapers Contest Awards banquet

9:30 p.m. KPA President's Reception.

NNA endorses Freedom of Information project

Community newspapers have a stake in open government and can play a critical role in raising public awareness that freedom of information is not just a Washington issue, National Newspaper Association President Mike Buffington, editor of The Jackson Herald in Jefferson, GA, said.

That is why NNA has endorsed Sunshine Sunday and its weeklong observance of issues surrounding the public's right of access to government information, Buffington said.

He urged NNA communities weeklies and dailies to pay close attention to the Sunshine events as a

national coalition of media organizations prepares for a kickoff March 13, 2005.

Buffington, a member of the national steering committee leading the Sunshine events, said open government is a bread and butter concern for local editors.

"The tension between public business and the urge for secrecy in government is as old as our Republic," Buffington said. "When the issues arise in a home town, the local editor probably has the keenest appreciation for that tension. It is always our job to make sure open government remains a clear and consistent obligation

of local officials. This national awareness campaign will help us in our work."

During Sunshine Sunday week participating daily and weekly newspapers, magazines, online sites, and radio and television broadcasters will be provided material for feature editorials, op-eds, editorial cartoons, and news and feature stories that drive public discussion about why open government is important to everyone, not just to journalists.

NNA Executive Director Brian Steffens said NNA would provide information through the NNA web site at www.nna.org as materials

become available.

Buffington noted that the observance begins the week after NNA's 44th Annual Government Affairs Conference in Washington, DC. The Conference will be March 9-12, 2005, at the Wyndham Washington Hotel. It will feature a Congressional reception on Capitol Hill March 10, 2005.

"With journalists going to jail at alarming rates and the various new security laws tightening access at all levels, 2005 will be a year when freedom of information and the First Amendment are going to be front and center on NNA's legislative agenda," he said.

NEWS

Continued from page 2

The event -- featuring roasters Sen. Mitch McConnell, Al Smith of Comment on Kentucky and Courier-Journal editorial director David Hawpe, among others -- is sponsored by the Louisville and Bluegrass chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists. Cross is a member of both chapters and formerly served as national president of the society.

The event is being held at the Grand Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza in downtown Frankfort. A cocktail reception starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30. Tickets for the event are \$60 for SPJ members and \$75 for non-members.

Sponsorship tables are currently being sold for \$750 for a table of eight. All proceeds benefit journalism scholarship for college students.

Invitations will be mailed. If you want an invitation, or if you or your organization wish to sponsor a table, please contact Chris Poynter, of The Courier-Journal, or Jack Brammer, of the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Poynter can be reached at cpoynter@courier-journal.com, or 502-582-4475. Brammer can be reached at jbrammer@herald-leader.com or 859-231-1302.

General Assembly is underway in 2005

The 2005 Kentucky General Assembly convened on Tuesday, Jan. 4 and once again the KPA news bureau will be offering coverage of the events.

Legislative stories will be filed on AccessKPA.com. To receive notification that stories have been filed and to retrieve stories from the Web site, apply for a user name and password by visiting the site.

Legislative roundup stories will be filed weekly each Friday by 4 p.m. and other stories, packages and/or photos will be filed in addition as key legislative initiatives move through the chambers.

As always, the News Bureau's coverage is on a first come, first-served basis. Keep in mind, the

News Bureau can fill such requests as: complete stories, a quote from your legislator to add to a local story or a photograph of your legislator in action.

The service is free of charge to you as a KPA member. To make a request, contact KPA News Bureau Director Dana Lear at dlear@kypress.com.

Interns, John Stith and Tyler Campbell will be assisting Lear with coverage this year.

SPJ contest entries being accepted

Entries in the 2004 Sigma Delta Chi Awards of the Society of Professional Journalists are being accepted now through Feb. 7.

Entries must have been published during 2004. Each entry may be submitted in only one category and contestants may enter as many categories as desired. Editorials, comments and sidebars may be added as supporting material. Original clips and tearsheets are preferred, but duplicates will be accepted. Up to four individuals may be named on a team entry, otherwise the entry must be made in the name of the staff of the publication.

If mailing multiple entries in the same package, clearly separate each entry to prevent confusion. Place all entry fees in a separate envelope marked "Entry Fees" and include a list of entries the fee covers.

You must include a typed or printed entry form for each entry and include three copies of the entry form for each entry. There is a \$60 per entry fee for SPJ members and \$100 per entry fee for non-members. Make checks payable to Society of Professional Journalists.

A cover letter must also accompany all entries with the following information: a summary of the story or stories; a discussion of major findings and subsequent results; a review of the process followed to get the story, including information about the circumstances that prompted the story, the length of time taken to report, write and edit and sources and references used; an account of the difficulty or uniqueness of effort in obtaining the story.

Veteran journalists will judge the

material. All decisions are final. One award is issued in each category. An award may be withheld if the judges decide no entry merits recognition.

Entries will be judged on readability, effectiveness of interpretation, accuracy and completeness, enterprise, style, resourcefulness of the reporter in overcoming obstacles, interest and adherence to the SPJ Code of Ethics.

All entries must be postmarked by Feb. 7.

2004 high school workshop planned at MSU

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communications will host its 32nd annual Journalism and Broadcasting Workshop for regional high schools Feb. 18, according to workshop director Dr. Bob McGaughey.

After registration and announcements from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m., students and their advisers will be able to pick from 25 programs over the three sessions that end at 12:25 p.m.

At 12:30 winners of the newspaper competition will be announced by Joe Hedges before the workshop ends at 1 p.m.

In addition to McGaughey, participating JMC faculty and staff will be Dr. John Dillion, Jeremy McKeel, Joe Hedges, Dr. Roger Haney, Dr. Debbie Owens, Dr. Ann Landini, Dr. Jeanne Scafella, Orville Herndon, Robin Orvino-Proulx, Gill Welsch and Dr. Allen White.

Representatives from Josten's Publishing and Taylor Publishing will conduct three sessions on producing the high school yearbook.

Dana Lear of the Kentucky Press Association will conduct sessions on covering a beat and on community journalism.

The programs, designed to help high school media improve their products, include sports writing, editorials and columns, newspaper design, ad sales and design, digital camera production, feature writing, pre-production of the TV newscast, public relations and promoting your media, legal controls of the media, mining story ideas and tours of the MURRAY STATE NEWS and the TV studios.

There will be a special program for teachers/advisers on assessment issues for journalism teachers in Kentucky.

Cost of the one-day event is \$4 per student with accompanying advisers free. The cost includes juice and donuts during the registration period.

Last year nine schools from Kentucky, Tennessee and Illinois attended the workshop at Murray State's Curris Center.

Johnson to appear on Jeopardy Jan. 18

Scott Johnson, husband of KPA Circulation Division chair Kriss Johnson, will be a contestant on the January 18 Jeopardy show. Scott was qualified as a contestant during preliminaries in Lexington and received the phone call soon thereafter, inviting him to be a contestant.

Scott, a newscaster with WVLK-AM in Lexington, and Kriss flew to Los Angeles recently for the show's taping. Jeopardy restricts contestants from saying anything about their appearance. Kriss will only say, "We had a great trip," without giving any hints on how Scott did.

Nominations sought for NNA's Ben Franklin Award

Each NNA member newspaper is invited to nominate a postal employee who has done the most to improve the partnership between the Postal Service and community newspapers. Previous nominees who have not yet been recognized may be re-nominated.

Please describe the individual's contributions. Nominees must be full time employees of the United States Postal Service. There is no nomination fee. Only one nominee per newspaper, please.

Nomination forms must be received by Jan. 31, 2005. Forms can be found at www.nna.org. Fax completed information to (703) 534-5751, or mail it to Benjamin Franklin Award, National Newspaper Association, P.O. Box 5737, Arlington, VA 22205.

Gamblin

Continued from page 6

life I needed for someone not to understand me, and he got it right.

"Needless to say, my name was mud for a few months in Earlington," he said. "What bothered me then and still bothers me to this day is that he never told me who he was. I was writing for a newspaper at that time, and the first thing I ever did was make it known I am a reporter."

• • •

When a Messenger staff writer position came open in 1980, Gamblin applied, but Executive Editor Tom Clinton had already filled the opening.

A few months later, a female reporter went on maternity leave. The newspaper needed a temporary reporter for six weeks.

"I got to thinking about Garth, with some reservations - I wasn't sure how that would work out because of his limits and I had some reservations about how he would be received - but we hired him anyway," Clinton said.

"During his first week here, he produced more copy than the rest of the staff combined," he said.

When another writer left, Gamblin was quickly offered the full-time position.

"The funny story is Garth said, 'I wish that woman would go ahead and have that baby so I could leave,'" Clinton said. "I guess any minute now she's ready to pop."

Gamblin's method for conducting interviews gets around his physical limitations.

He types interview questions on the computer. For telephone interviews, another staff member will read the questions to the source. When Gamblin travels to an interview, he takes a copy of the questions with him, and sometimes relies on a photographer for help.

He almost always uses a tape recorder.

"The first impulse most people have upon meeting Garth is to stereotype him as being mentally challenged," Clinton said. "He's not. He has physical challenges and he rises to those challenges."

"He has a brilliant mind, sometimes devious, I think," he said. "I've never seen a story he was afraid to go after or didn't feel he could do."

Clinton believes Gamblin has more knowledge about the court system and how to cover a trial than any other reporter with whom he's worked.

"I love trial reporting better than any other beat," Gamblin said. "There's nothing like watching two good lawyers work. Agriculture and feature stories are at the top of my list, too. Farmers never try to mislead you."

However, he doesn't enjoy covering education.

"School boards use more acronyms than any other governing body," he said. "They drive me up the wall. To me, school boards are the Protestants' answer to purgatory."

The farm beat was more to his liking.

"He's really done a marvelous job in keeping the readers informed of what's going on in the farming community," said Hopkins County Extension Agent George Kelley. "He's made sure we knew what was going on in 4-H Camp. ... He's explained the importance of agriculture in the county and what it's meant, not only to our economy, but to individual farmers and farm families."

Gamblin has received the Friend of Agriculture award from the Hopkins County-Madisonville Chamber of Commerce's Agriculture Committee. The committee also presented him with a special "Silver Sow" award one year, named after the agriculture reporting award coveted by Les Nessman on "WKRP in Cincinnati."

Gamblin started writing his columns with the dateline "Huh, USA," about a dozen years ago.

"My first 'Huh' was motivated by Fiscal Court's attempt to pass an ordinance banning what some people considered pornographic," he said.

Gamblin won a first-place KPA award - his first, but not his last - and The Messenger won its first Freedom of Information award from coverage of the issue.

"Sooner or later, everybody on earth and in the heavens shows up

in the Huhian Bar and Grill," he said.

• • •

When the Hopkins Circuit grand jury returned indictments recently, it issued a fake four-count indictment against Gamblin - aka The Duke of Earlington and Scoop.

"You're not packing any weapons, are you, Mr. Gamblin?" asked Victim's Advocate Charlie Weatherford, who escorted him from his back row seat to the front of the courtroom.

Commonwealth's Attorney David Massamore said, "There's that dangerous cane."

"You know, you have the right to remain silent," Weatherford said.

Massamore rejoined, "He couldn't be silent if he tried."

The comical charges included "contempt of court in the extreme" for interrupting the dignity of the court by snoring during trials; "murder of the king's English" by violating the principles set forth by Professor Webster during various news stories; "assault upon the citizens of Hopkins County" when his columns about his efforts as the mayor of Huh caused citizens to laugh hilariously, endangering the welfare of their sides; and "official misconduct" for conducting the business of Huh after first attending the Huh Bar and Grill and imbibing or, alternatively, for conducting city business without imbibing.

"So, Mr. Gamblin, how do you plead?" asked Hopkins Circuit Judge Charles Boteler.

Gamblin gave a one-word answer, "Guilty."

And everyone applauded.

On a more serious note, the grand jury issued a special report honoring Gamblin's efforts and talents.

"For approximately 20 years, Garth has served as the eyes and ears of the citizens of Hopkins County in covering various legal proceedings within our court system," the report said. "Through the eyes of this one citizen, all citizens have been represented in a diligent and professional manner. Without the efforts of professionals such as Garth, the American justice system would be less effective."

Massamore said it wasn't hard to come up with the charges.

"He's been around here forever,"

he said. The commendation is "well-deserved. He's a good man."

Boteler said, "The press and the government, naturally, are often in an adversarial relationship. I think it's good to commend what he's done - and he's done an excellent job.... I think he has a good understanding of the legal system."

"He really hasn't slept as much as we joked," Boteler said, with a smile.

And, the judge promised, Gamblin's seat in the back of the courtroom will be available to him anytime he wants.

• • •

Gamblin, a devout Catholic, served on the Owensboro Diocese's commission to make churches more accessible to the handicapped. He was named Kentucky Handicapped Employee of the Year in 1983. He's also a yellow-dog Democrat, Clinton said.

But his dedication to his work may be what stands out the most.

"As far as close friends, they're here," Clinton said earlier this month. "This is his life. He's been up here three times this week, and he's on vacation."

As for what Gamblin will do after his retirement, he said he doesn't have a clue.

"I have a stack of books I bought over the years and haven't read," he said. "I'm reading a biography on Benjamin Franklin. I recently bought, 'His Majesty George Washington.'"

"I used to be more interested in making history than reading it," Gamblin said. "Now, it's the reverse. I'll probably do some writing. I hope so, anyway."

Late afternoons in The Messenger newsroom, Gamblin traditionally asks co-workers if they would like a Coke, then provides the money to buy a round from the drink machines.

"Someone else is going to have to buy Cokes in the afternoon," Clinton said, with a smile.

"It won't be quite the same," he said. "It really won't."

"We'll get another reporter in," Clinton said. "We'll get it covered. But because he grew up here, because he's worked here so long, because he's covered courts so long, people turn to him for background. It's not going to be the same."

People

Continued from page 2

even an online poll.

Jim Abernathy was named editor of **The Mayfield Messenger** on Dec. 1. He is a native of Hickman in Fulton County and joined the Messenger in 1974 as a general assignment reporter and photographer. As editor he will oversee the day-to-day news coverage and assembly of the pre-press news portion of the newspaper. He is a 1967 graduate of Fulton County High School and a 1971 graduate of Murray State University. Upon graduation from Murray he began working in Clinton for the late Kentucky Lt. Gov. and MSU Board of Regents' member **Harry Lee Waterfield** at Waterfield's **Hickman County Gazette** weekly newspaper and continued working there when the newspaper was sold to the late **Ralph Ed Graves**, a former state representative and life-long newspaper man in Carlisle County. He moved to Mayfield in April 1974 to work on the daily Messenger under the late **Wendell Givens** and the late **Ray Edwards**.

Campbellsville University hosted **William Strode**, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winning photographer, at the Little Auditorium on Dec. 7. Strode's company, **Harmony House Publishers of Louisville**, is working with **Campbellsville University** producing a history book and a photography book, both of which will coincide with the university's Centennial Celebration in 2006-07. Strode has received some of the highest honors in his career as a photojournalist; among them the two Pulitzers, of which he was a co-recipient, an Overseas Press Club Award, Newspaper Photographer of the Year, Newspaper Magazine Picture Editor of the Year and The World Press Award. His photographic assignments for such publications as *Time*, *Life*, *Fortune*, *Geo*, *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Town and Country*, *Smithsonian*, *Stern*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post* have taken him worldwide. He spent 17 years as magazine photographer and assistant director of photography at **The Courier-Journal** and **Louisville Times**.

A reunion for past **Ohio County Times-News** employees will be held

from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 9 in the Rosine Room at the Days Inn south of Beaver Dam. The invitation also is extended to those employed by **The Ohio County Times**, the forerunner of **The Times-News** prior to the purchase of the **Ohio County News**. The reunion will mark 40 years of publication for the newspaper.

Sherrie Hawn was recently named advertising director of **The Richmond Register**. She has spent 12 years with the Register, most recently as senior account executive.

Cecil Foster was recently named **The Richmond Register's** new circulation manager. Foster has also worked in circulation at the **Indianapolis Star**, **Connersville News Examiner**, in Fayette County, Ind., **The Lexington Herald-Leader** and, most recently, the **Georgetown News-Graphic**.

Paul Gottbrath, night editor of **The Kentucky Post** and former editor of **The Springfield Sun**, is one of five winners nationally of the **William R. Burleigh Award for Distinguished Community Service**. The annual award, named for **Scripps Chairman William R. Burleigh**, recognizes **Scripps**

employees for outstanding volunteer work in their communities. Winners receive the **Burleigh trophy** and the right to award a \$5,000 check to the charity of their choice. Their names will also be added to the Hall of Fame at the **Scripps Howard Corporate Offices**. The award in **Gottbrath's** name will be split between two Covington organizations, **Northern Kentucky Harvest** and **Be Concerned**. **Harvest** recycles surplus food from grocery stores and restaurants to social service agencies across Northern Kentucky. **Be Concerned** provides a supplemental food program for about 900 families in Northern Kentucky and also helps them with clothing, hygiene projects and housewares. **Gottbrath** is on the board of both organizations.

The Tribune-Courier welcomed **Kris Adams** to its staff as reporter in early December. She is a veteran of the U.S. Army and has worked for military newspapers at **Fort McClellan, Ala.** and **Fort Campbell**. Since completing her enlistment in November 2001, she has worked at the **Kentucky New Era** in **Hopkinsville** and the **Murray Ledger & Times**.

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