

# MIP

MISSOURI PRESS  
NEWS

# Congratulations 2023

## Better Newspaper Contest Award Winners



**2023 Photo  
of the Year**  
Wiley Price  
*St. Louis American*  
**Best News Photo**

### REGULAR FEATURES

- Obituaries ..... 3
- Calendar ..... 17
- Jean Maneke ..... 18



# Missouri Press Association elects 2024 officers, directors

## Editor of Springfield News-Leader to take MPA's reins

### From Missouri Press Staff

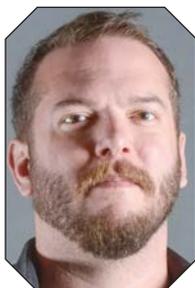
Amos Bridges, editor-in-chief at the *Springfield News-Leader*, was elected president of the Missouri Press Association Friday, Sept. 22, during the 157th Annual MPA Convention in St. Louis.

Bridges has been with the *News-Leader* for 19 years, starting as an intern in 2004. After 12 years of reporting on crime, local government and the city's pension woes, he became the newspaper's Watchdog Content Coach in 2016, a role he held until becoming editor in December 2019.

In June 2021, Bridges began overseeing editorial direction for both the *News-Leader* and the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, also a Gannett newspaper. He is a board member and past president of the Missouri Sunshine Coalition.

Connecting with other journalists throughout the state is important for sharing knowledge about how to reach audiences through new and different methods, Bridges said. "I'm continually struck by how different the industry can be for news organizations, depending on geography, size and demographics. Lessons and best practices may not always translate directly, but I think there's great value in sharing."

He also has a personal rule (like many journalists) not to accept anything from sources of stories. One notable exception came when the late Bob Barker insisted Bridges take a cookie from a basket provided by his hotel. "When Bob Barker tells you take a cookie, you take a cookie."



Amos Bridges

Bridges lives in Springfield with his wife, Paulette Harvey, and 7-year-old daughter, Isla. He has been MPA's Acting President since Beth Durreman, former publisher of the *Laclede County Record*, Lebanon, left employment in the newspaper industry earlier this year and will officially take office as MPA president Jan. 1.

Roger Dillon, publisher of *The Shannon County Current Wave*, Eminence, will continue on the MPA Board of Directors through 2024 as past president.

Other 2024 MPA officers and directors elected Sept. 22, include First Vice President, Peggy Scott, Leader Publications, Festus; Second Vice President, Bryan Chester, *Columbia Missourian*; Secretary, Ron Schott, *Wright County Journal*, Mountain Grove; Treasurer, Kenneth L. Garner, Garner Media Holdings, Maryville.

Director for a two-year term is Mike Scott, NEMOnews Media, Kahoka.

Directors for three-year terms include Sandy Nelson, *Courier Tribune*, Liberty; and Kimberly Combs, *Wayne County Journal Banner*, Piedmont.

Hannah Spaar, *The Odessan*, Odessa, was elected as the National Newspaper Association state chair.

Continuing on the MPA Board in 2024 will be directors: Gary Castor, *Jefferson City News Tribune*; Bryan Jones, *Morgan County Statesman*, Versailles; Kevin Jones, *St. Louis American*; Tim Schmidt, Westplex Media, Montgomery City; and Lucas Presson, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau.

## Active Online Membership application for consideration

### From Missouri Press Staff

The Missouri Press Association has received an Active Online Newspaper Membership application for The Kansas City Beacon. The editor-in-chief is Scott Canon.

Address: The Kansas City Beacon, 300 E. 39th St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Email: [scott@thebeacon.media](mailto:scott@thebeacon.media). Telephone: (816) 200-2739. Its website is [www.kcbeacon.org](http://www.kcbeacon.org).

This membership application will be considered by the MPA Board of Directors at its Sept. 21, 2023, in St. Louis. Approval of the application will be contingent upon this notice having been published in at least three issues of the MPA Bulletin, eBulletin or magazine.

Comments about applications can be sent to MPA Executive Director Mark Maassen at [mmaassen@mopress.com](mailto:mmaassen@mopress.com).

Send YOUR newspaper's news and moves to [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com), along with the names and job titles of your staff who need to receive Missouri Press emails.

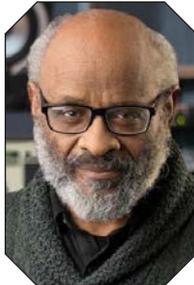


Fairview Heights, Ill.

## Calvin Wilson

Bennie Calvin Wilson, 70, died suddenly at his home on Aug. 29, 2023, from an undisclosed illness.

At the time of his death, Wilson was the theater critic for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, where he had worked since 2000. Prior to the *Post-Dispatch*, he was the jazz critic for *The Kansas City Star* and previously had been a general assignment reporter.



Wilson also had worked at a newspaper in Florida and earned his bachelor's degree in English from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He hosted the "Somethin' Else" jazz show on the St. Louis area radio station Classic 107.3.

He is survived by his partner, Jeanne Ortega, and many more family, friends and colleagues.

Kansas City

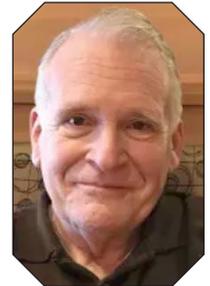
## George Lambros

George Samuel Lambros, 73, died Sept. 2, 2023.

Growing up in Kansas City, he joined the U.S. Navy as a corpsman following his high school graduation.

Upon his discharge from the Navy, he began a career at *The Kansas City Star* as a pressman and retired in 1989.

In addition to his wife, Pamela, he is survived by two children, seven grandchildren and many more family and friends.



**Help Missouri Press News remember our colleagues who have passed.  
Send obits to [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com).**

## A digital copy of your newspaper is required

### From Missouri Press Staff

Uploading your newspaper digitally to NewzGroup for the purpose of digital tear sheets is a requirement of Missouri Press Association membership.

If you are not uploading digital copies of your newspaper, contact Ted Lawrence at [tlawrence@mopress.com](mailto:tlawrence@mopress.com) or by phone at (573) 449-4167, ext. 312, for more information.

Please note, this requirement for a digital version of your newspaper is separate from and does not circumvent the need to continue uploading to Missouri Press' public notice website, [mopublicnotices.com](http://mopublicnotices.com).

Uploading your public notices to the Association's website is one of newspapers' best defenses against efforts to remove them from third-party publications.

## Statement of ownership

This is the Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation, as required by Act of Congress of Aug. 12, 1970, of *Missouri Press News*, published monthly at Columbia, Mo. This statement contains the information provided on Form 3526, provided to the Postmaster at Columbia, Mo.

The publisher and owner of *Missouri Press News* is the Missouri Press Association, 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO, 65201-4888, a non-profit corporation without capital stock.

The editor is Matthew Barba of Columbia, Mo. The managing editor is Mark Maassen of Columbia, Mo.

There are no bondholders, mortgagees, or other security holders of any kind or nature, either with reference to the Association or the *Missouri Press News*.

Total number of copies printed during the preceding 12 months averaged 462, and 470 were printed for September 2023, the issue nearest filing date.

No copies were sold through dealers, carriers or vendors during the year. Paid or requested mail subscriptions averaged 437 with 445 in September.

No copies were distributed free each month through the mail. Free distribution outside the mail was 15 each month. Total distribution averaged 452, with 460 distributed in September. Copies not distributed averaged 10, with 10 not distributed in September.

Paid and/or requested circulation averaged 96.68% for the year.

I certify all information furnished is true and complete.

— Matthew Barba

BE THE CHAMPIONS OF YOUR COMMUNITY

# 157th Annual Missouri Press Convention & Tradeshow

Sheraton Westport Chalet  
St. Louis

September  
21-23, 2023



## Thank you to our sponsors & trade show exhibitors

Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Trade Show Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Session Sponsors



Bag Sponsor



BNC Results Sponsor



## Trade Show Exhibitors

ASK-CRM • Associated Press • Columbia Missourian • Creative Circle Media Solution  
Maneke Law Group • Missouri Bar Association • Missouri Newspapers in Education  
Missouri Sunshine Coalition • OnPremise Networks • Publications Plus  
Publication Printers Corporation • State Historical Society of Missouri  
Software Consulting Services • University of Missouri Custodian of Records

# *Congratulations*

**2023**



**GOLD CUP WINNERS**

## **Weeklies**

Class 1

**Maryville Forum**

Class 2

**Springfield Business Journal**

Class 3

**Washington Missourian &  
St. Louis American**

## **Dailies**

Class 1

**Columbia Missourian**

Class 2

**Missouri Independent**

Class 3

**The Kansas City Star.**

# Congratulations to Missouri Press' 2023 Better Newspaper Contest winners!

From Missouri Press Staff

**General Excellence — Class 1**

*Cassville Democrat*

*Maryville Forum*

*Maries County Advocate*

**General Excellence — Class 2**

*Laclede County Record*

*Wright County Journal*

*Springfield Business Journal*

**General Excellence — Class 3**

*St. Louis American*

*St. Louis Business Journal*

*Jefferson County Leader*

**Best Overall Design — Class 1**

*Kahoka The Media* — Mike Scott,

Elsa Besler, Emily Redding

*Maryville Forum* — Staff

*Maries County Advocate* — Staff

**Best Overall Design — Class 2**

*Gainesville Ozark County Times* — Staff

*Springfield Business Journal* — Heather Mosley, Rebecca Green,

Katelyn Egger, Tia Reeves,

Christine Temple

*Ste. Genevieve Herald* — Mark Evans

**Best Overall Design — Class 3**

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* —

Tim Church, Jason Wert, AJ Fahr,

Chris Carlson, Jennifer Young,

Mandy Farrow

*St. Louis American* — Staff

*Webster-Kirkwood Times* — Staff

## On the cover

The 2023 Photo of the Year is Wiley Price's news photo for the *St. Louis American* of a community gathering and memorial. In picking this photo of the year, judges said the photo "stands above the rest. The photographer found light in a dark situation, making his photo coverage of the event symbolically charged and profound.

"And isn't that the beauty of great photojournalism — speaking aesthetically to the viewers' eyes in order to reach their hearts and minds."



John Dykstra won first place for small weeklies in Best Sports Feature Photo with this shot for the *Maryville Forum*.

**Best Front Page — Class 1**

*Maryville Forum* — Staff

*Plattsburg Clinton County Leader* — Brett Adkison

*Edina Sentinel* — Echo Menges

**Best Front Page — Class 2**

*Wright County Journal* — Ron Schott

*Courier-Tribune* — Staff

*Warrenton Warren County Record* — Tim Schmidt

**Best Front Page — Class 3**

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* —

Tim Church, Jason Wert, AJ Fahr, Chris Carlson, Jennifer Young,

Mandy Farrow

*Missouri Lawyers Weekly* — Staff

*Jefferson County Leader* — Staff

**Best Breaking News Story — Class 1**

*Cassville Democrat* —

Kyle Troutman

*Tribune and Times | Harrisonville* — Dennis Minich

*Edina Sentinel* — Echo Menges

**Best Breaking News Story — Class 2**

*Courier-Tribune* — Amanda Lubinski

*Houston Herald* — Brad Gentry

*Fayette Advertiser* — Justin Addison

**Best Breaking News Story — Class 3**

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Jason Wert

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Jason Wert

*St. Louis American* —

Ashley Winters, Alvin Reid

**Best News Story — Class 1**

*Maryville Forum* — Geoffrey Woehlck

*Edina Sentinel* — Echo Menges

*Edina Sentinel* — Echo Menges

**Best News Story — Class 2**

*Courier-Tribune* — Amanda Lubinski

*Springfield Business Journal* —

Mike Cullinan

*Courier-Tribune* — Amanda Lubinski

**Best News Story — Class 3**

*St. Louis American* —

Sylvester Brown, Jr.

*Webster-Kirkwood Times* —

Jaime Mowers

*St. Louis Business Journal* —

James Drew, Maddy Simpson

**Best Feature Story — Class 1**

*Lexington News* — Joe Parmon

*Maryville Forum* — Paxson Haws

*Maries County Advocate* —

Roxie Murphy

**Best Feature Story — Class 2**

*Phelps County Focus* —

Donald Dodd, Lori Lunceford

*Phelps County Focus* —

Andrew Sheeley

*Phelps County Focus* —

Kaitlin Brothers

Continued on Page 7

**Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!**



Jimmy Gillispie captured this photo of one tough cowboy to win Class 1 weeklies Best Sports Photo and Best Feature Photo for the *Tribune and Times* in Harrisonville.

**Best Feature Story — Class 3**

*Jefferson County Leader* — Steve Taylor  
*Washington Missourian* — Julie Murphy Quick  
*Washington Missourian* — Ethan Colbert

**Best News or Feature Series — Class 1**

*Maryville Forum* — Geoffrey Woehlk  
*Maryville Forum* — Geoffrey Woehlk, Skye Pournazari  
*Memphis Democrat* — Echo Menges

**Best News or Feature Series — Class 2**

*Gainesville Ozark County Times* — Jessi Dreckman  
*Springfield Business Journal* — Karen Craig  
*Houston Herald* — Doug Davison

**Best News or Feature Series — Class 3**

*St. Louis American* — Sylvester Brown, Jr.  
*Webster-Kirkwood Times* — Jaime Mowers  
*St. Louis American* — Staff

**Best Columnist-Humorous — Class 1**

*Tribune and Times* | Harrisonville — Dennis Minich  
*Versailles Morgan County Statesman* —  
 Patrik Andrews-Ryan

*Versailles Morgan County Statesman* — Bryan Jones

**Best Columnist-Humorous — Classes 2 & 3**

*Missouri Lawyers Weekly* — Spencer Farris  
*Jefferson County Leader* — Peggy Bess  
*Houston Herald* — Doug Davison

**Best Columnist-Serious — Class 1**

*Versailles Morgan County Statesman* — Bryan Jones  
*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Dan Wehmer  
*Versailles Morgan County Statesman* —  
 Patrik Andrews-Ryan

**Best Columnist-Serious — Class 2**

*Springfield Business Journal* — Geoff Pickle  
*Springfield Business Journal* — Eric Olson  
*Springfield Business Journal* — Christine Temple

**Best News Photograph — Class 1**

*Edina Sentinel* — Echo Menges  
*Plattsburg Clinton County Leader* — Brett Adkison  
*Edina Sentinel* — Echo Menges

**Best News Photograph — Class 2**

*Houston Herald* — Doug Davison  
*Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican* — Dave Marner  
*Linn Unterrified Democrat* — Jacob Warden

**Best News Photograph — Class 3**

*St. Louis American* — Wiley Price  
*Washington Missourian* — Julia Hansen  
*St. Louis American* — Wiley Price

**Best Feature Photograph — Class 1**

*Tribune and Times* | Harrisonville — Jimmy Gillispie  
*Cassville Democrat* — Kyle Troutman  
*Maries County Advocate* — Jacob Warden

**Best Feature Photograph — Class 2**

*The Odessan* — Hannah Spaar  
*Houston Herald* — Doug Davison  
*Linn Unterrified Democrat* — Ed Gehlert

**Best Feature Photograph — Class 3**

*Webster-Kirkwood Times* — Ursula Ruhl  
*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Jason Wert  
*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Tim Church

**Best Sports Photograph — Class 1**

*Tribune and Times* | Harrisonville — Jimmy Gillispie  
*Focus on Oak Grove* — Kory Hales

*Plattsburg Clinton County Leader* — Brett Adkison

**Best Sports Photograph — Class 2**

*Linn Unterrified Democrat* — Neal Johnson  
*The Odessan* — Kory Hales

*Phelps County Focus* — Lori Lunceford

**Best Sports Photograph — Class 3**

*Jefferson County Leader* — Ron Rigdon  
*Washington Missourian* — Bill Battle  
*Washington Missourian* — Bill Battle

**Best Sports Feature Photograph — Class 1**

*Maryville Forum* — Jon Dykstra  
*Cassville Democrat* — Kyle Troutman  
*Plattsburg Clinton County Leader* — Clint Dye

**Best Sports Feature Photograph — Class 2**

*Houston Herald* — Doug Davison  
*Phelps County Focus* — Lori Lunceford  
*Houston Herald* — Doug Davison

**Continued on Page 8**



This chilling photo secured first place for Doug Davison and the *Houston Herald* in Best News Photo in mid-size weeklies.

**Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!**



Ursula Ruhl captured the magic of a carnival in this Best Feature Photo for the Webster-Kirkwood Times.

Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican — Will Johnson  
 Warrensburg Star-Journal — Joe Andrews

**Best Sports News Story or Package — Class 3**

Washington Missourian — Bill Battle  
 Washington Missourian — Arron Husted

St. Louis American — Alvin Reid  
**Best Sports Feature Story — Class 1**

Tribune and Times | Harrisonville — Jimmy Gillispie

Mexico Ledger — Jeremy Jacob  
 Maryville Forum — Jon Dykstra  
**Best Sports Feature Story — Class 2**

Courier-Tribune — Liam Keating  
 Phelps County Focus — Dave Roberts  
 Phelps County Focus — Dave Roberts

**Best Sports Feature Story — Class 3**

Washington Missourian — Bill Battle  
 Branson Tri-Lakes News — Tim Church  
 Washington Missourian — Paula Tredway

**Best Sports Columnist — Classes 1 & 2**

Phelps County Focus — Dave Roberts  
 Ste. Genevieve Herald — Michael Boyd, Jr.

Richmond News — Shawn Roney

**Best Sports Columnist — Class 3**  
 St. Louis American — Alvin Reid  
 Washington Missourian — Arron Husted

St. Louis American — Earl Austin, Jr.  
**Best News or Feature Special Section — Class 1**

Maryville Forum — Jon Dykstra  
 Maries County Advocate — Staff  
 Maryville Forum — Skye Pournazari,  
 Geoffrey Woehl, Trinity Cobb

**Best News or Feature Special Section — Class 2**

Courier-Tribune — Staff  
 Springfield Business Journal — Staff  
 Springfield Business Journal — Staff

**Best News or Feature Special Section — Class 3**

St. Louis American — Staff  
 Washington Missourian — Ethan Colbert, Patty Brinker,  
 Sarah Moore, Lori Obermark,  
 Sharon Pruessner, Brenda Klekamp  
 Missouri Lawyers Weekly — Staff

**Continued on Page 9**

**Best Sports Feature Photograph — Class 3**

Washington Missourian — Arron Husted

Washington Missourian — Arron Husted

Washington Missourian — Arron Husted

**Best Photo Illustration**

Kahoka The Media — Mike Scott

**Best Photo Package — Class 1**

Edina Sentinel — Echo Menges

Edina Sentinel — Echo Menges

Cassville Democrat — Kyle Troutman

**Best Photo Package — Class 2**

Salem News — Catherine Wynn

The Odessan —

Kory Hales, John Carmody

Courier-Tribune — Kellie Houx

**Best Photo Package — Class 3**

St. Louis Business Journal —

Dilip Vishwanat

Branson Tri-Lakes News — AJ Fahr

Washington Missourian —

Julia Hansen, Ryan Pendleton,

Ethan Colbert, William Skipworth,

Reid Glenn

**Community Service**

St. Louis American — Staff

Edina Sentinel — Echo Menges,

Mike Scott, Sue Scott, Emilie Rumble

Wright County Journal —

Ron Schott, Alonda Jones

**Best Sports Pages — Class 1**

Maryville Forum — Jon Dykstra

Cassville Democrat — Staff

Richmond News — Shawn Roney,

Karen Payne, Sharon Donat,

Jack Ventimiglia, Brian Rice  
**Best Sports Pages — Classes 2 & 3**

Wright County Journal — Ron Schott

Washington Missourian —

Bill Battle, Arron Husted

Ste. Genevieve Herald —

Michael Boyd, Jr.

**Best Sports News Story or Package — Class 1**

Tribune and Times | Harrisonville —

Jimmy Gillispie

Fulton Sun — Robby Campbell

Plattsburg Clinton County Leader —

Clint Dye, Brett Adkison

**Best Sports News Story or Package — Class 2**

Phelps County Focus — Dave Roberts,

Donald Dodd, Lori Lunceford



Arron Husted and the Washington Missourian won with this Best Sports Feature Photo for large weeklies.

**Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!**



Hannah Spaar's first place Best Feature Photo for *The Odessan* perfectly shows the joy in these riders' faces.

**Best Investigative Reporting — Class 1**

*Maryville Forum* — Geoffrey Woehlk  
*Memphis Democrat* — Echo Menges, Mike Scott  
*Shelbyville Shelby County Herald* —  
 Marlana Smith, Echo Menges

**Best Investigative Reporting — Classes 2 & 3**

*Jefferson County Leader* —  
 Kim Robertson, Tony Krausz, Steve Taylor  
*Phelps County Focus* — Andrew Sheeley  
*The Odessan* — Joe Spaar, Hannah Spaar

**Best Local Business Coverage — Classes 1 & 2**

*Springfield Business Journal* — Staff  
*Wright County Journal* — Ron Schott  
*Warrensburg Star-Journal* — Staff

**Best Local Business Coverage — Class 3**

*Jefferson County Leader* — Staff  
*St. Louis Business Journal* — Erik Siemers  
*Kansas City Northeast News* — Abby Hoover

**Best Business Story — Class 1**

*Maryville Forum* — Paxson Haws  
*Moberly Monitor-Index* — Winona Whitaker  
*California Democrat* — Garrett Fuller

**Best Business Story — Class 2**

*Springfield Business Journal* — Mike Cullinan  
*Springfield Business Journal* — Mike Cullinan  
*Gainesville Ozark County Times* — Jessi Dreckman

**Best Business Story — Class 3**

*Jefferson County Leader* — Steve Taylor  
*St. Louis American* — Karen Robinson-Jacobs  
*Washington Missourian* — Ethan Colbert

**Best Coverage of Government — Class 1**

*Maryville Forum* — Geoffrey Woehlk, Ken Garner  
*Fulton Sun* — Anakin Bush  
*Maries County Advocate* — Roxie Murphy

**Best Coverage of Government — Class 2**

*The Odessan* — Hannah Spaar  
*Springfield Business Journal* — Karen Craig  
*Willow Springs Howell County News* —  
 Amanda Mendez, Laura Wagner

**Best Coverage of Government — Class 3**

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Jason Wert  
*St. Louis American* — Staff  
*Missouri Lawyers Weekly* — Scott Lauck

**Best Coverage of Rural Life or Agriculture**

*Washington Missourian* — Staff  
*Tribune and Times | Harrisonville* —  
 Dennis Minich, Jimmy Gillispie, Lucas Lord  
*Gainesville Ozark County Times* — Jessi Dreckman

**Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture — Class 1**

*Tribune and Times | Harrisonville* — Lucas Lord  
*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Matthew McFarland  
 Chariton Marquee — Melanie Latamondeer

**Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture — Class 2**

*Springfield Business Journal* — Karen Craig  
*Salem News* — Andrew Sheeley  
*Laclede County Record* — Laura Valenti

**Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture — Class 3**

*St. Louis American* — Ashley Winters  
*Missouri Lawyers Weekly* — Chloe Murdock  
*Washington Missourian* — Madyson Dixon

**Best Story About Religion — Classes 1 & 2**

*Springfield Business Journal* — Karen Craig  
*Laclede County Record* — Chris Roden  
*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Matthew McFarland

**Best Story About Religion — Class 3**

*Washington Missourian* — Ethan Colbert, Laura Miserez  
*Washington Missourian* — Ethan Colbert  
*Washington Missourian* — Reid Glenn

**Best Story About Education — Class 1**

*Maryville Forum* — Geoffrey Woehlk  
*Maryville Forum* — Geoffrey Woehlk  
*Maryville Forum* — Skye Pournazari

**Best Story About Education — Class 2**

*Springfield Business Journal* — Karen Craig  
*Gainesville Ozark County Times* — Jessi Dreckman  
*Wright County Journal* — Ron Schott

**Continued on Page 10**



Doug Davison of the *Houston Herald* scored a Best Sports Feature Photo win, capturing the team and the scoreboard.

**Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!**

**Best Story About Education — Class 3**

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — AJ Fahr  
*Kansas City Northeast News* — Abby Hoover  
*Jefferson County Leader* — Steve Taylor

**Best Story About the Outdoors Classes 1 & 2**

*Gainesville Ozark County Times* — Jessi Dreckman  
*Gainesville Ozark County Times* — Jessi Dreckman  
*Salem News* — Andrew Sheeley

**Best Story About the Outdoors — Class 3**

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Tim Church

*Missouri Lawyers Weekly* — Scott Lauck

*Jefferson County Leader* — Laura Marlow

**Best Story About History — Class 1**

*Tribune and Times* | Harrisonville — Dennis Minich

*Kahoka The Media* — Emily Bontrager  
*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Delores Turner

**Best Story About History — Class 2**

*Springfield Business Journal* — Karen Craigo

*Phelps County Focus* — Andrew Sheeley

*Phelps County Focus* — Andrew Sheeley



Echo Menges of the *Edina Sentinel* kept a steady hand to nab this picture of a dive team training in icy water, winning first place in Best News Photo for small weeklies.

**Best Story About History — Class 3**

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Chris Carlson

*Washington Missourian* — Ethan Colbert

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Chris Carlson

**Best Military Story — Class 1**

*Maries County Advocate* — Colin Willard

*Cassville Democrat* — Jordan Troutman

*Moberly Monitor-Index* — Winona Whitaker

**Best Military Story — Class 2**

*Phelps County Focus* — R.D. Hohenfeldt

*Courier-Tribune* — Amanda Lubinski  
*Laclede County Record* — Chris Roden

**Best Military Story — Class 3**

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Jason Wert

*Washington Missourian* — Ethan Colbert

*Jefferson County Leader* — Laura Marlow

**Best Page Design — Classes 1 & 2**

*Springfield Business Journal* — Rebecca Green

*Springfield Business Journal* — Heather Mosley

*Springfield Business Journal* — Rebecca Green

**Best Page Design — Class 3**

*Washington Missourian* — Sarah Moore

*Washington Missourian* — Lori Obermark

*Washington Missourian* — Lori Obermark

**Best Information Graphic — Classes 1 & 2**

*Springfield Business Journal* — Rebecca Green

*Houston Herald* — Brad Gentry

*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Dan Wehmer

**Best Information Graphic — Class 3**

*Washington Missourian* — Sarah Moore

*Kansas City Northeast News* — Bryan Stalder

*Washington Missourian* — Sarah Moore

**Continued on Page 11**



Neal Johnson slid into a first place win with this Best Sports Photo for the *Linn Unterrified Democrat*.

**Best Editorial Cartoon —  
Classes 1 & 2**

*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Dan Wehmer  
*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Dan Wehmer  
*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Dan Wehmer

**Best Editorial Cartoon — Class 3**

*Jefferson County Leader* — Cody Taylor  
*Jefferson County Leader* — Cody Taylor  
*Jefferson County Leader* — Cody Taylor

**Best Online Newspaper or Website — Class 1**

*Kahoka The Media* — Mike Scott, Elsa Besler  
*Maryville Forum* — Ken Garner  
*Cassville Democrat* — Kyle Troutman

**Best Online Newspaper or Website — Class 2**

*Springfield Business Journal* — Staff  
*Warrensburg Star-Journal* — Staff  
*Platte City Platte County Citizen* —  
Tanner Cobb, Jeanette Faubion

**Best Online Newspaper or Website — Class 3**

*Missouri Lawyers Weekly* — Scott Andera  
*Hannibal Courier-Post* — Staff  
*St. Louis American* — Staff

**Best Video**

*St. Louis American* — Dawn Suggs  
*St. Louis American* — Kevin Jones, James LeBine  
*St. Louis American* — Dawn Suggs

**Best Headline Writing — Class 1**

*Cassville Democrat* — Kyle Troutman  
*Edina Sentinel* — Echo Menges  
*Maryville Forum* — Staff

**Best Headline Writing — Class 2**

*Houston Herald* — Doug Davison  
*Springfield Business Journal* — Staff

**Best Headline Writing — Class 3**

*St. Louis American* — Staff  
*Branson Tri-Lakes News* —  
Tim Church, Jason Wert, AJ Fahr  
*Washington Missourian* — Staff

**Best News or Feature Obituary — Classes 1 & 2**

*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Dan Wehmer  
*Owensville Gasconade Co. Republican* — Dave Marner  
*Gainesville Ozark County Times* — Sue Ann Jones

**Best News or Feature Obituary — Class 3**

*St. Louis American* — Alvin Reid  
*Jefferson County Leader* — Laura Marlow  
*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Tim Church

**Multi-Media Reporting — Class 1**

*Cassville Democrat* — Kyle Troutman  
*Memphis Democrat* — Echo Menges  
*Richmond News* — Shawn Roney, Karen Payne,  
Jack Ventimiglia, Brian Rice, Sharon Donat

**Multi-Media Reporting — Classes 2 & 3**

*St. Louis American* — Staff  
*Springfield Business Journal* — Eric Olson  
*Washington Missourian* — Ethan Colbert, Julia Hansen,  
William Skipworth, Reid Glenn, Geoff Folsom

**Magazine/Alternative Publication — Classes 2 & 3**

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Tim Church



Ron Rigdon snatched a first place win for the *Jefferson County Leader* with this mid-gameplay Best Sports Photo.

*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Tim Church, Misti Clark

**Best Health Story — Class 1**

*Maryville Forum* — Geoffrey Woehl  
*Tribune and Times | Harrisonville* — Jimmy Gillispie  
*Kahoka The Media* — Mike Scott

**Best Health Story — Class 2**

*Springfield Business Journal* — Karen Craig  
*Houston Herald* — Brad Gentry  
*Springfield Business Journal* — Mike Cullinan

**Best Health Story — Class 3**

*Jefferson County Leader* — Laura Marlow  
*Washington Missourian* — Angela Mueller  
*St. Louis American* — Sylvester Brown, Jr.

**Tilghman Cloud Memorial Weeklies Editorial —  
Class 1**

*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Dan Wehmer  
*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Dan Wehmer  
*Seymour Webster County Citizen* — Dan Wehmer

**Tilghman Cloud Memorial Weeklies Editorial —  
Class 2**

*Willow Springs Howell County News* — Amanda Mendez  
*Willow Springs Howell County News* — Amanda Mendez  
*The Odessan* — Hannah Spaar

**Tilghman Cloud Memorial Weeklies Editorial —  
Class 3**

*St. Louis American* — Staff  
*St. Louis American* — Staff  
*Washington Missourian* — Bill Miller Jr.

**Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!**

**Dailies**

**General Excellence**

*Jefferson City News Tribune*  
*Springfield News-Leader*  
*Columbia Missourian*

**Best Overall Design**

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Staff  
*Springfield News-Leader* — Staff  
*Columbia Missourian* — Staff

**Best Front Page**

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Tony Hawley  
*Springfield News-Leader* — Staff  
*Cape Girardeau*  
*Southeast Missourian* — Staff

**Best Breaking News Story — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Erik Galicia, Katie Gallaway, Adam Goldstein  
*Sedalia Democrat* — Chris Howell  
*Columbia Missourian* — Anthony Kristensen

**Best Breaking News Story — Classes 2 & 3**

*The Kansas City Star* — Jenna Thompson  
*Missouri Independent* — Tessa Weinberg

**Best News Story — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Eli Hoff  
*Columbia Missourian* — Teagan King

*Sedalia Democrat* — Nicole Cooke, Chris Howell, Faith Bemiss

**Best News Story — Class 3**

*The Kansas City Star* — Laura Bauer, Judy L. Thomas  
*The Kansas City Star* — Luke Nozicka

*The Kansas City Star* — Anna Sporre  
**Continued on Page 12**

**Best News Story — Class 2**

*Missouri Independent* — Rudi Keller  
*Springfield News-Leader* — Andrew Sullender

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Anna Campbell

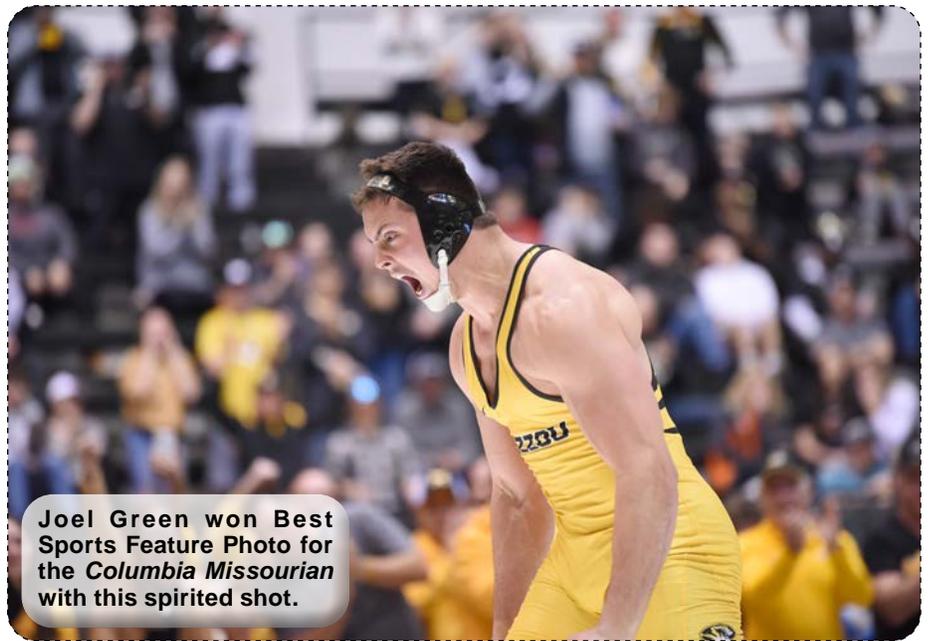
**Best Feature Story — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Eli Hoff  
*Columbia Missourian* — Ian Wesselhoff

*Sedalia Democrat* — Faith Bemiss

**Best Feature Story — Class 2**

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Anakin Bush  
*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Joe Gamm



Joel Green won Best Sports Feature Photo for the *Columbia Missourian* with this spirited shot.

*Independence Examiner* — Bill Althaus

**Best Feature Story — Class 3**

*The Kansas City Star* — David Hudnall  
*The Kansas City Star* — David Hudnall  
*The Kansas City Star* — J.M. Banks

**Best News or Feature Series — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Staff  
*Sedalia Democrat* — Skye Melcher  
*Sedalia Democrat* — Skye Melcher, Chris Howell

**Best News or Feature Series — Classes 2 & 3**

*Joplin Globe* — Kevin McClintock  
*The Kansas City Star* — Judy L. Thomas, Laura Bauer  
*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Cameron Gerber, Joe Gamm, Anna Watson, Claudia Levens

**Best Columnist-Humorous — Class 2**

*Independence Examiner* — Jeff Fox  
*Joplin Globe* — Kimberly Zerkel

**Best Columnist-Serious — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — David Webber  
*Columbia Missourian* — David Rosman

*Sedalia Democrat* — Liz Schleicher

**Best Columnist-Serious — Class 2**

*Missouri Independent* — Jason Hancock  
*Missouri Independent* — Janice Ellis

*Joplin Globe* — Andy Ostmeyer

**Best News Photograph — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Margo Wagner  
*Columbia Missourian* — Sam Koeppel

*Columbia Missourian* —

Margo Wagner

**Best News Photograph — Class 2**

*Springfield News-Leader* — Nathan Papes

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Eileen Wisniowicz

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Julie Smith

**Best Feature Photograph — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Minh Connors

*Columbia Missourian* — Tristen Rouse

*Columbia Missourian* — Beatrice Bankauskaite

**Best Feature Photograph — Classes 2 & 3**

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Julie Smith

*The Kansas City Star* — Emily Curiel

*The Kansas City Star* — Emily Curiel

**Best Sports Photograph — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Beatrice Bankauskaite

*Columbia Missourian* — Josh Ellenburg

*Park Hills Daily Journal* — Matt King

**Best Sports Photograph — Class 2**

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Greg Jackson

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Greg Jackson

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Greg Jackson

**Continued on Page 13**

**Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!**



Nathan Papes won first in Best News Photo with this emotionally charged shot for the *Springfield News-Leader*.

**Best Sports Feature Photograph — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Joel Green  
*Columbia Missourian* — Owen Ziliak  
*Columbia Missourian* — Owen Ziliak

**Best Sports Feature Photograph — Classes 2 & 3**

*The Kansas City Star* — Rich Sugg  
*Columbia Daily Tribune* — Madeline Carter  
*Joplin Globe* — Roger Nomer

**Best Photo Illustration — Classes 1 & 2**

*Columbia Missourian* — Kate Trabalka  
*Columbia Missourian* — Kate Trabalka  
*Columbia Missourian* — Maggie Lenox

**Best Photo Package — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Sam Koepfel, Margo Wagner,  
 Clayton Steward, Owen Ziliak, Lily Dozier  
*Columbia Missourian* — Minh Connors  
*Columbia Missourian* — Owen Ziliak

**Best Photo Package — Classes 2 & 3**

*Columbia Daily Tribune* — Madeline Carter  
*The Kansas City Star* — Tammy Ljungblad  
*The Kansas City Star* — Jill Toyoshiba

**Community Service**

*Springfield News-Leader* —  
 Susan Atteberry Smith, Amos Bridges  
*Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian* — Rick Fahr  
*Columbia Missourian* — Staff

**Best Sports Pages**

*Independence Examiner* — Karl Zinke, Bill Althaus  
*Columbia Missourian* — Staff  
*Springfield News-Leader* — Staff

**Best Sports News Story or Package — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Kortay Vincent  
*Park Hills Daily Journal* — Matt King  
*Columbia Missourian* —

Kyle Pinnell, Kenny Van Doren, Jack Soble

**Best Sports News Story or Package — Class 2**

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Greg Jackson  
*Independence Examiner* — Bill Althaus  
*Columbia Daily Tribune* — Matt Stahl

**Best Sports Feature Story — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Jack Soble

*Columbia Missourian* — Mason Arneson

*Columbia Missourian* — Kyle Pinnell

**Best Sports Feature Story — Classes 2 & 3**

*The Kansas City Star* — David Hudnall  
*Springfield News-Leader* — Wyatt D. Wheeler  
*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Greg Jackson

**Best Sports Columnist — Class 2**

*Independence Examiner* — Bill Althaus  
*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Greg Jackson  
*Columbia Daily Tribune* — Chris Kwiecinski

**Best News or Feature Special Section — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Staff  
*Columbia Missourian* — Staff  
*Sedalia Democrat* — Staff

**Best News or Feature Special Section — Class 2**

*Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian* — Rust Media  
*Joplin Globe* — Staff

*Poplar Bluff Daily American Republic* —

Barbara Ann Horton, Samantha Tucker,

Misty DeJournett, Donna Farley, Mike Buhler, Debra Tune

**Best Investigative Reporting — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Staff  
*Columbia Missourian* — Claudia Levens  
*Columbia Missourian* — Skylar Laird

**Best Investigative Reporting — Classes 2 & 3**

*Springfield News-Leader* — Nancy French,  
 Gregory J. Holman, Harrison Keegan, Amos Bridges  
*Springfield News-Leader* — Galen Bacharier  
*Missouri Independent* — Rudi Keller

**Best Local Business Coverage**

*Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian* — Jeff Long  
*Sedalia Democrat* — Staff

**Best Business Story — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Skylar Laird  
*Columbia Missourian* — Ella McCarthy  
*Marshall Democrat-News* — Sarah Gray

**Best Business Story — Classes 2 & 3**

*The Kansas City Star* — Joyce Smith  
*Missouri Independent* — Niara Savage, Samantha Horton  
*The Kansas City Star* — Joyce Smith

**Continued on Page 14**



Minh Connors captured this tender moment to take first place in Best Feature Photo for the *Columbia Missourian*.

**Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!**



Margo Wagner made this powerful image for the *Columbia Missourian* and won Best News Photo for small dailies

**Best Coverage of Government — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Emma Murphy, Jana Rose Schleis, Noelle Alviz-Gransee  
*Columbia Missourian* — Komlavi Adissem  
 Nevada Daily Mail — Sarah Haney

**Best Coverage of Government — Class 2**

*Missouri Independent* — Jason Hancock, Rudi Keller, Tessa Weinberg, Rebecca Rivas, Allison Kite  
*Joplin Globe* — Debby Woodin  
*Missouri Independent* — Tessa Weinberg, Clara Bates

**Best Coverage of Rural Life or Agriculture — Classes 1 & 2**

*Columbia Missourian* — Staff  
*Missouri Independent* — Rudi Keller, Tessa Weinberg, Rebecca Rivas  
*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Ryan Pivoney

**Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Jessica Blake  
*Columbia Missourian* — Connor Giffin  
*Columbia Missourian* — Mackenzie McCarty

**Best Story About Rural Life or Agriculture — Classes 2 & 3**

*Missouri Independent* — Allison Kite  
*The Kansas City Star* — David Hudnall  
*Missouri Independent* — Rebecca Rivas

**Best Story About Religion — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Sophie Stephens  
*Marshall Democrat-News* — Sarah Gray  
*Columbia Missourian* — Aysia Grey

**Best Story About Religion — Classes 2 & 3**

*Missouri Independent* — Clara Bates  
*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Ryan Pivoney



Julie Smith dug deep to win the *Jefferson City News Tribune* first in Best Feature Photo for combined medium and large daily newspapers.

*The Kansas City Star* — Judy L. Thomas  
**Best Story About Education — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Eli Hoff  
*Columbia Missourian* — Wicker Perlis  
*Columbia Missourian* — Keara Shannon, Michael Howie

**Best Story About Education — Classes 2 & 3**

*The Kansas City Star* — Matti Gellman  
*Missouri Independent* — Annelise Hanshaw  
*Springfield News-Leader* — Claudette Riley

**Best Story About the Outdoors — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Jana Rose Schleis  
*Columbia Missourian* — Jana Rose Schleis  
*Columbia Missourian* — Emma Murphy

**Best Story About the Outdoors — Class 2**

*Missouri Independent* — Samantha Horton  
*Joplin Globe* — Andy Ostmeyer  
*Missouri Independent* — Rebecca Rivas

**Best Story About History — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Lucas Nava  
*Columbia Missourian* — Olivia Sklenka, Katie Taranto  
*Marshall Democrat-News* — Sarah Gray

**Best Story About History — Classes 2 & 3**

*The Kansas City Star* — Bill Lukitsch, Anna Sporrer  
*Joplin Globe* — Kevin McClintock  
*The Kansas City Star* — David Hudnall

**Best Military Story — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Evan Lasseter  
*Columbia Missourian* — Noelle Alviz-Gransee  
*Columbia Missourian* — Mackenzie McCarty

**Best Military Story — Class 2**

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Joe Gamm  
*Springfield News-Leader* — Greta Cross

*Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian* — Michael Leifer

**Continued on Page 15**

**Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!**

**Best Page Design — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* — Staff  
*Columbia Missourian* — Staff  
*Columbia Missourian* — Staff

**Best Page Design — Class 2**

*Poplar Bluff Daily American Republic*  
— Donna Farley

*Jefferson City News Tribune* —  
Molly Morris

*Jefferson City News Tribune* — Staff

**Best Information Graphic —  
Classes 1 & 2**

*Columbia Missourian* —  
Missourian Graphics Staff  
*Columbia Missourian* — Grace Cooper,  
Makalah Hardy, Nick Gougas  
*Columbia Missourian* — Han Vu

**Best Editorial Cartoon**

*Columbia Missourian* — John Darkow  
*Columbia Missourian* — John Darkow  
*Columbia Missourian* — John Darkow

**Best Online Newspaper or  
Website — Class 1**

*Sedalia Democrat* — Staff  
*Columbia Missourian* — Staff

**Best Online Newspaper or  
Website — Class 2**

*Springfield News-Leader* — Staff  
*Columbia Daily Tribune* — Staff



Greg Jackson of the *Jefferson City News Tribune* hit it out of the park in capturing the action of this Best Sports Photo winner for mid-sized dailies.

*Missouri Independent* — Staff

**Best Video — Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* —  
Anastasia Busby  
*Columbia Missourian* — Amy Schaffer  
*Columbia Missourian* —  
Minh Connors, Cleo Norman

**Best Video — Class 2**

*Missouri Independent* — Rudi Keller  
*Missouri Independent* —  
Tessa Weinberg  
*Jefferson City News Tribune* —  
Layne Stracener

**Best Headline Writing**

*Springfield News-Leader* — Staff  
*Joplin Globe* — Jerry Willis  
*Missouri Independent* — Staff

**Best News or Feature Obituary  
— Class 1**

*Columbia Missourian* —  
Elizabeth Derner  
*Columbia Missourian* — Charlie Drape  
*Columbia Missourian* — John Belfonte

**Best News or Feature Obituary  
— Class 3**

*The Kansas City Star* — Anna Spoerre  
*The Kansas City Star* — Randy Covitz  
*The Kansas City Star* —  
Steve Vockrodt, Katie Moore

**Best News or Feature Obituary  
— Class 2**

*Springfield News-Leader* —  
Sara Karnes  
*Joplin Globe* — Jeff Lehr, Kim Barker  
*Joplin Globe* — Jeff Lehr, Kim Barker

**Multi-Media Reporting —  
Classes 1 & 2**

*Columbia Missourian* — Staff  
*Missouri Independent* — Rudi Keller  
*Springfield News-Leader* —  
Sara Karnes, Nathan Papes,  
Andrew Jansen

Continued on Page 16



Beatrice Bankauskaite of the *Columbia Missourian* captured this player's determination to win Best Sports Photo.

**Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!**



Rich Sugg and *The Kansas City Star* won Best Sports Feature Photo with this shot of an incredulous player.

**Magazine/Alternative Publication**

- Joplin Globe* — Kevin McClintock
- Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian* — Rust Media
- Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian* — Rust Media
- Best Health Story — Class 1**
- Columbia Missourian* — Eleanor McCrary

- Columbia Missourian* — Alex Espinda
- Columbia Missourian* — Erik Galicia
- Best Health Story — Class 2**
- Missouri Independent* — Rudi Keller
- Missouri Independent* — Clara Bates
- Poplar Bluff Daily American Republic* — Donna Farley
- Best Health Story — Class 3**
- The Kansas City Star* —
- Lisa Gutierrez, Anna Spoorre
- The Kansas City Star* — Lisa Gutierrez
- The Kansas City Star* — Lisa Gutierrez
- Best Editorial — Class 2**
- Joplin Globe* — Andy Ostmeyer
- Independence Examiner* — Jeff Fox
- Joplin Globe* — Andy Ostmeyer

**Combined Weeklies and Dailies**  
**Best Editorial Pages & Opinion Pages**  
*St. Louis American* — Staff  
*Festus-Jefferson County Leader* — Staff  
*Cassville Democrat* — Kyle Troutman  
**Best Newspaper In Education Project**  
*Eldon Advertiser* — Tammy Witherspoon  
*Joplin Globe* — Staff  
*St. Louis American* — Cathy Sewell  
**Best Columnist-Serious — Class 3**  
*The Kansas City Star* — Mará Rose Williams  
*Branson Tri-Lakes News* — Jason Wert  
*St. Louis American* —  
 Denise Hooks-Anderson, MD

THE  
**MISSOURI BAR**  
 WE'RE **HERE TO HELP**

*Updated!*

Media Law Handbook

Connecting reporters with legal sources

Online News Reporter's Handbook on the Courts & Legal Glossary

Learn more at  
**News.MoBar.org**

*Congratulations*  
 to the 2023  
 Better Newspaper  
 Contest winners!

**Congratulations from Missouri Bar Association to this year's BNC winners!**

# Editor & Publisher names Brad Gentry to '20 over 50'

## From Editor & Publisher and the *Houston Herald*

Brad Gentry, retired former publisher of the *Houston Herald*, has been named to Editor & Publisher's "20 Over 50." Nominees are chosen for their strong work ethic, transformational mindsets, commitment to journalistic and publishing excellence and ability to lead during challenging times, according to E&P.

Gentry started at age 15 in the pressroom mailing the weekly newspaper and also photographing events before graduating high school. He later earned a journalism degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism.

Reflecting on his career and his sense of accomplishment, Gentry said: "Over the last four decades, we've provided the leadership and publicity for several projects that made a big difference in our community — renovation of a 1938 movie theatre, turning an early 1900s grocery store building into a visitors' center and quarters for the chamber of commerce, as well as a downtown plaza and pavilion that host events and the weekly farmers market. Another building was gutted to become the office of the University of Missouri Extension Center. The newspaper completely digitized every issue printed since the late 1880s and created online



Brad Gentry



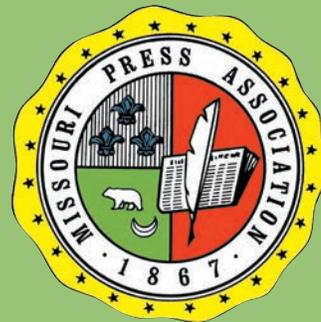
Isaiah Buse

archives. It is an invaluable resource for readers."

His predictions for the future of publishing and news media include: More emphasis on digital services to help merchants, robust websites to connect with readers and more video content are needed. It turns our publication into a daily because of the constant website updates throughout the day. That's not to say that county-seat print publications are going away if they serve their communities with dedication and help merchants be successful.

Gentry officially retired following the sale of the *Houston Herald* in May to Buse Media, which is owned by Isaiah Buse, a Houston native who worked for the newspaper in high school and college. Buse is only the newspaper's fourth publisher since 1900.

"Taking ownership of the *Houston Herald*, which has been around for 145 years, and has had few owners is a weighty responsibility," Buse told readers when the sale was announced. "It's an honor to be entrusted with an institution that has played such an important role in the community for so long. As the new owner, I feel a sense of obligation to maintain the publication's credibility and integrity, which are essential to its continued success."



## CALENDAR

### October

19 — Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Columbia

19 — Ozark Press Association Annual Meeting, Mountain Grove

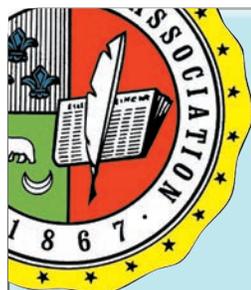
### November

2 — MPA Past President's Dinner, Old Kinderhook, Camdenton

### Did you know?

You can find all of the latest registration forms for Missouri Press' events online at [www.mopress.com](http://www.mopress.com).

The website also has award nomination forms, board of director applications and much more.



**ACTING PRESIDENT:** Amos Bridges, *Springfield News-Leader*  
**2nd VICE PRES.:** Peggy Scott, *Leader Publications, Festus*  
**SECRETARY:** Kimberly Combs, *Wayne County Journal Banner, Piedmont*  
**TREASURER:** Mike Scott, *NEMO News Media Group, Kahoka*  
**NNA Representative:** Hannah Spaar, *The Odessian, Odessa*  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Mark Maassen  
**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR:** Ted Lawrence  
**EDITOR:** Matthew Barba

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Roger Dillon, *Shannon County Current Wave, Eminence*  
**DIRECTORS:**  
 Donna Bischoff, *BridgeTower Media, St. Louis*  
 Gary Castor, *Jefferson City News Tribune*  
 Sandy Nelson, *The Courier-Tribune, Liberty*  
 Bryan Jones, *The Morgan County Statesman, Versailles*  
 Kevin Jones, *St. Louis American*  
 Tim Schmidt, *Westplex Media*  
 Lucas Presson, *Southeast Missourian, Cape Girardeau*  
 Bryan Chester, *Columbia Missourian*

MISSOURI PRESS NEWS (ISSN 00266671) is published monthly for \$15 per year by the Missouri Press Association, Inc., 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201-4888; phone (573) 449-4167; fax (573) 874-5894; email [mmaassen@mopress.com](mailto:mmaassen@mopress.com); website [www.mopress.com](http://www.mopress.com). Periodicals postage paid at Columbia, MO 65201-4888. (USPS No. 355620).

**POSTMASTER:** Please send changes of address to Missouri Press Association, 802 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201-4888.

# Open, and increasingly shut, records

To this observer, these days seem to be among the toughest days we've had in years in regard to access to public information. At times, it seems like "one step forward, two steps back" when you assess if progress is being made in Missouri on this front.

For example, there have been numerous times reporters have complained that they go to the courthouse a few days before trial and find that public access to court pleadings on that case are now closed records, just as they attempt to get current so they can properly cover the proceeding.

This was an issue that was percolating up during the time that final changes were being made to strengthen the media's rights under Supreme Court Operating Rule 16, which covered cameras being permitted in the courtroom.

Then, this summer, the Supreme Court revised Court Operating Rule 2.04 in the process of the Expanded Remote Access Implementation. That has been discussed in detail over the summer and you are beginning to see how that functions.

There are problems surfacing and those need to be noted by you and forwarded to me so they can be compiled.

By no means is this a flawless process. Your press association is working with the Missouri Broadcasters Association and others to identify needed steps and fix these problems. It is obvious that this is not going to be an easy task.

But it is important to look closely at the new Operating Rule 2.04 and, if you cover the state courts, to keep a copy handy. The rule change does include a provision that should help with the issue of a closed file relating to trials.

The new rule says in Section 1(d): "Access to case records as provided by this Court Operating Rule 2.04 shall not be restricted in anticipation of a jury trial without a court order setting forth specific written findings supporting a compelling justification to restrict access."

While it does not specifically say this, it would seem reasonable to assume that restriction would need to be limited in scope so that once a jury is selected, other members of the public (and the media) would again be given access to the background on the case. (Also, this is where having a good relationship with your local judge is very important — there are no doubt times where a reporter with such a relationship with the judge could possibly be given earlier limited access under certain restrictions in order to prepare for the trial.)

Meanwhile, as the new Remote Access plan rolls out, another law that was passed in 2021 is making clear its defects. The language of concern is found in Section 590.602 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. Subsection 2 of that statute, commonly known as the "Police Officers' Bill of Rights" as it went through the Missouri legislature, discussed administrative investigations of cops that could lead to disciplinary actions, dismissals, transfers or demotions.

In such cases, the process of questioning is restricted in various ways. Most of those restrictions give certain rights to the officer being questioned.

But the "kicker" is that the outcome of the investigation is a closed record under the Sunshine Law. Getting access to it requires obtaining a court order. So if citizens make a complaint against a law enforcement officer, they are not allowed to request a copy of the outcome of that investigation. It's a secret.

Does that seem right? If you, as a citizen, take the bold step of

*"There have been numerous times reporters have complained that they go to the courthouse a few days before trial and find that public access to court pleadings on that case are now closed records, just as they attempt to get current so they can properly cover the proceeding."*

complaining about a cop, you can forget about even knowing what happened and you will just hope that law enforcement takes the required step of redacting your name from the records.

And if you are a community down the road and that cop applies for a job, know that you will have no way of finding out about any official

complaint made against that person that might influence your decision whether or not to hire them.

This statute is the basis of a case that was scheduled to be heard by the Mo. Supreme Court on Sept. 27, called *City of St. Louis v. State of Missouri*. It usually takes several months for the Court to issue its decision, so it's possible we won't hear anything about it until November or December.

And the Court is not hearing this case on the basis pointed to above — the case is postured as one questioning whether the bill as passed had outgrown the scope of its original purpose and therefore was invalid, whether certain obligations within the final bill constituted an "unfunded mandate" under the Hancock Amendment and thus invalidated the bill, and other concerns.

As far as Missouri journalists are concerned, the best outcome would be for this entire law to be invalidated. We shall look forward to this decision, for sure!



Jean Maneke, is MPA's Legal Hotline attorney. Contact her at (816) 753-9000; [jmaneke@manekelaw.com](mailto:jmaneke@manekelaw.com).

To register to attend Ozark Press Association,  
email Norene Prososki at [norene@ozarkcountytimes.com](mailto:norene@ozarkcountytimes.com).

## 2023 OZARK PRESS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION



**Thursday, October 19, 2023**

Basil Springs Wedding & Venue Barn

County Road 95-14, Mountain Grove, MO 65711

*(Note: Above address takes you to location on Google Maps)*

9:30-9:55 a.m. – Registration with continental breakfast (featuring St. George's Donuts)

9:55-10 a.m. – Welcome by Ron Schott, president, Ozark Press Association and owner, Wright County Journal

10-10:45 a.m. – News design session “Rules of Thumbs-up News Design” – Joe Hadsall, *Springfield Daily Citizen*

10:45-11 a.m. – Missouri Press Association update – Mark Maassen, Executive Director

11 -11:45 a.m. – “Sports Coverage Help is on the Way” - Ron Schott, *Wright County Journal*, Kyle Troutman, *Cassville Democrat*.

11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Lunch. Pizza provided by Matteo's-Pizza on the Square

12:30-1:45 p.m. – “Case.net and PACER – Overview & Discussion” – Attorney Jean Maneke, Maneke Law/MPA Legal Hotline Attorney, and Jackie Rehwald, *Springfield Daily Citizen*

1:45-2:30 p.m. – “Why Should You Become a Newspaper Owner?” – Moderator, Steve Pokin, *Springfield Daily Citizen*, with a panel of Ozark Press Association newspaper owners

2:30 p.m.-3:15 p.m. – “So You Think You Have a Bright Idea?” – Moderator Amanda Mendez, *Howell County News*, and Critic, Dan Wehmer, *Webster County Citizen*.

3:15-3:45 p.m. – Business meeting and election of officers

**Want to help plan next year’s contest?**

Volunteer for next year's awards contest by serving on Missouri Press' Contest Committee. Email [mbarba@mopress.com](mailto:mbarba@mopress.com) if interested.

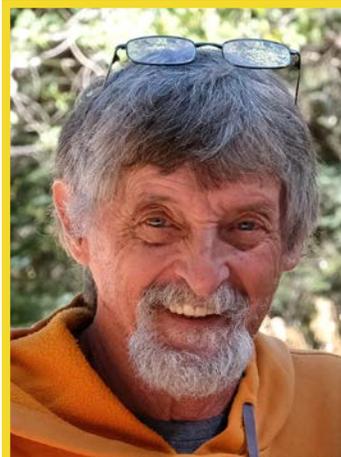


Missouri Press  
Foundation

# CONGRATULATIONS! TO OUR 2023 INDUCTEES



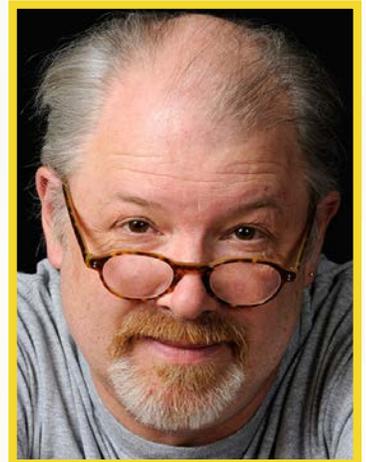
Jill Toyoshiba



Dennis Crider



Sally Stapleton



Randy Cox

## Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame Ceremony

State Historical Society of Missouri • Columbia, Mo. 10/19, 4 p.m.

R.S.V.P. online at [bit.ly/mophotoj](https://bit.ly/mophotoj) or email [mharper@mopress.com](mailto:mharper@mopress.com)

### EVENT SPONSORS

