



Weeklies weigh in on
question of paid obits

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University of Kentucky Library
It takes a vision ...

By DARRYL ARMSTRONG

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People and Papers

Arnold Garson named Courier-Journal publisher

Longtime newspaper editor and executive **Arnold Garson**, who helped lead The Des Moines Register to two Pulitzer Prizes in the 1980s, has been named president and publisher of **The Courier-Journal**.



ARNOLD GARSON

Garson, 67, comes to Louisville from Sioux Falls, S.D., where he was president and publisher of the Argus Leader.

He replaces **Denise Ivey**, who last June announced she would leave The Courier-

Journal by year's end. Ivey, who became The Courier-Journal's publisher in 2006, will remain the chairman of the newspaper through the end of the year.

Addressing the newsroom staff in Louisville Aug. 7, Garson acknowledged that American newspapers are undergoing difficult financial times and that changes inevitably will continue to occur at The Courier-Journal.

But he pledged that the newspaper and its Web site "will continue to be the primary provider of local and regional news and information in this community." And he said he is "extremely bullish" about the future of newspapers.

Originally from Nebraska, Garson

See PEOPLE on Page 2

KPS sets one-month record with \$1.6 million Sales staff continues to shine

The Kentucky Press Service advertising staff set a one-month record in August with more than \$1.6 million billed to clients.

The total surpassed the August, 2006, record of \$910,000.

Of the \$1.6 million, a majority was placed in Kentucky newspapers, the remainder being in Indiana newspapers through the Indiana Newspaper Advertising Network, operated by KPS.

Through the end of August, KPS has now placed more than \$4 million in 2008, nearly matching yearly totals in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2007. The yearly record is \$5.3 million in 2006 "and that's well within reach for this staff," said KPA/KPS Executive Director David T. Thompson.

"In 1987, we had our first million dollar year," he added. "Now we're talking about a million dollar month and not really all that far from a \$2 million month."

The bulk of the August total was a placement for Kentucky Utilities and Louisville Gas and Electric, both owned by Eon Corporation. It involved some 95 newspapers across the state with full page ads that ran for three weeks.

The ad staff - **Teresa Revlett**, **Rachel McCarty** and **Stephanie Conrad** - was recognized at a KPA/KPS Board of Directors meeting on Aug. 18. **Holly Willard** was unable to attend the meeting and be introduced.

Thompson also noted that the ARK Network, a program in which about 98 newspapers run small space display ads sold by KPS, had already set a one-year record within the first six months with \$273,000 placed.

"It looks like the \$5.3 million record for a year is well within reach," Thompson said. "We have four months to place the remaining \$1.1 million needed to break the all-time record and I have no reason to think this staff won't do it."



TERESA REVLETT



RACHEL MCCARTY



HOLLY WILLARD



STEPHANIE CONRAD

Chris Ordway is the publisher of the Elizabethtown News Enterprise



Ordway joins Board of Directors

Chris Ordway, publisher of the Elizabethtown News Enterprise, has been elected to finish the board term for District 5.

He will complete the term, through the January, 2011, Winter Convention, fol-

lowing the death of Kentucky Standard publisher **Ron Filkins**.

Read about KPA/KPS' newest Board member and his thoughts on newspapers on page 7 of this month's edition of The Kentucky Press.

Governments get OK to e-mail meeting notices

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION

Local governments in Kentucky will now be able to notify news organizations about their special meetings by e-mail.

The new provision in Kentucky's

open-meetings law took effect in July. Touted as a money- and time-saver, it allows local governments to send meeting notices electronically to any agency member or news organization that asks in writing for e-mail communications.

"It gives the media and the public more timely notification of the special

meetings, as well," said **Allison Martin**, a spokeswoman for the state attorney general's office. "Because you never can ensure when a mailed letter is going to arrive by the postal service."

The attorney general's office is send-

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P A S S I N G S

Ralph Utley

Ralph Gordon Utley, 93, of Owensboro and formerly of Central City, passed away July 18 at the Hermitage Car and Rehabilitation Center in Owensboro.

He retired in the early 1980s as part-owner and business manager of Central City Publishing Corporation which owned the Times-Argus and The Messenger newspapers.

He owned one-third of the newspapers along with Larry Stone and Amos Stone. The Haley-McGinnis Funeral Home was in charge of all arrangements.

E. Berry Smith

E. Berry Smith, a longtime executive for Schurz Communications Inc., has passed away at age 82.

Smith was senior vice president of broadcasting for Schurz Communications from 1988 until he retired in 2000.

He once served as vice president and general manager of WLKY-TV in Louisville.

PEOPLE

Continued from page 1

began his newspaper career as a reporter for the Omaha World-Herald.

Before coming to the Argus Leader in 1996, he served as editor of the San Bernardino County (Calif.) Sun and as managing editor of The Des Moines Register.

♦♦♦♦

Barren County native Amber Dilley is the newest member of the Glasgow Daily Times' newsroom.

Dilley is a graduate of the University of New Mexico with a degree in journalism.

While studying at UNM, Dilley worked for the student newspaper.

♦♦♦♦

Ben Sheroan has been named general manager of The LaRue County Herald News in Hodgenville and The Record in Leitchfield. Both weeklies are owned by Landmark Community Newspapers Inc.

Sheroan began his career in 1974 while still in high school, working as a part-time sports writer with The News-Enterprise in Elizabethtown.

He served in various newsroom roles, including assistant editor through 1990 when he became city editor for The Messenger-Inquirer in Owensboro. He later served as editor of a morning daily in West Virginia and publisher of daily and weekly newspapers in Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky.

♦♦♦♦

The Times Leader is one of two Kentucky newspapers winning an award in the National Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

Publisher Chip Hutcheson will be presented a third-place award for best sports feature story or series, non-daily division, at the association's annual convention this fall in St. Paul, Minn.

The winning entry was titled "Field of Dreams" and was published July, 2007 chronicling the history of youth baseball in Princeton.

The other winner for Kentucky was a third place for best editorial by Ryan Craig at The Todd County Standard.

♦♦♦♦

Keith W. Ponder, former publisher at the Glasgow Daily Times, will again lead the south-central Kentucky newspaper.

Ponder, a vice president and division manager for Birmingham, Ala.-based Community Newspaper Holdings Inc., had served as publisher in Glasgow from 1998 to 2004 when he was promoted to a division corporate assignment while still based in Glasgow.

Pete Mio, who spent more than two years as publisher at the Glasgow paper, has been promoted to CNHI's Tonawanda, N.Y. newspaper.

During Ponder's previous tenure as publisher, he helped the paper reach record-high circulation levels, led the conversion to a new Web site and helped establish CNHI's Kentucky news bureau.

♦♦♦♦

Bell County native Brandy Murray Calvert describes her promotion to managing edi-

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THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION

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♦♦♦♦
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News Bureau curtailed; looking back at 25 years

KPA has long had a history of offering some unique member services, most of them available to members at no additional cost. Pay your dues, get the services.

Each year, we ask the incoming president to come up with one new member service, or tweak an existing one. In 1991, David Hawpe expressed his concern about newspapers out in the far reaches of that state not being able to get news out of Frankfort. Oh, there was some available through the tons of news releases mailed each year but what those newspapers really needed was not available.

David suggested we set up a service, free to members, that would help them get stories, pictures, open records, court documents from state government. It wasn't an Associated Press in that the newspaper made the request and the news bureau was not going to just generate story after story.

He saw this particularly of interest to weekly newspapers that did not have the staff nor resources to drive a few hours to Frankfort just to get a record or take a photo or cover a news event. But dailies might use it as well.

There was only one other such service from a state press association but it was geared more toward generating stories for newspapers than being a newspaper's own employee based in Frankfort.

For 17 years the News Bureau has been available to members. At the beginning, there were several assignment requests. Eventually we added legislative coverage, offering newspapers a weekly wrap-up of House and Senate news when the General Assembly was in session.

That became the most-used News Bureau service, with up to 80 newspapers just a few years ago carrying the weekly wrap-up. We can only assume that decreased news space or maybe even a lack of interest in what the legislature does to Kentuckians as a reason nearly half of those 80 do not use the stories any more.

I remember several years ago talking with Jerry Lyles, a KPA Board member and publisher at the Benton Tribune Courier. Jerry told me about sending a reporter all the way to Frankfort to get a record about a public agency.

That's about a four-hour drive and even at much lower gas prices it was still a costly expense.

Jerry's reason for not using the News Bureau? "I forgot all about KPA having that."

That was an oft-heard phrase, "I forgot about it." We tried to remind members about its purpose and availability. But assignments didn't increase. If we have three assignments a month, that's a high number. Some months go by without any newspaper asking the News Bureau to help it out.

The decision has been made to cut back, maybe even cut out, the KPA News Bureau as we know it. That came last fall at the Board Retreat. We held on to it through the 2008 session, through the Special Session in late June and even thought maybe a column by John Whitlock, News Bureau Director, asking, pleading, begging for assignments while turn it around.

It made no difference.

We also noticed that back in the spring, in a survey of members about KPA offerings, the News Bureau got no mention as being a

On Second Thought

By DAVID THOMPSON
KPA Executive Director



valuable service. So coupling the lack of use and apparent lack of interest, the KPA News Bureau will cease to exist as we know it. We're going to try to make a weekly legislative wrap-up available to newspapers, if there's interest. Interest mean newspapers want to stories and will run the stories.

We know most all dailies get their legislative news by either covering the General Assembly or using AP's service. But most all weeklies are represented by an employee stationed around the Capitol and don't subscribe to AP.

Still, that's been the most-used service through the News Bureau though even that use has waned in the last few years.

♦♦♦♦

All Betty Berryman asked for was five years. When I interviewed for this position, Betty's one question sticks out in my mind: "If you're hired, would you commit to five years?"

As of Sept. 26, 25 years later, Betty, it's been five times what you asked about. And it's been more than five times the fun I thought it would.

There are some stories over the past 25 years that many of you've not heard. I share those for you unfamiliar with them while perhaps boring those who have.

In the first few weeks on the job, when KPA was on Capital Avenue, my office was in the back of the first floor. An old den turned office, complete with black and orange shag carpeting. Barbara Brown, who was office manager at the time, came to the door and said, "David, we have visitors." I looked up to find two state police detectives, plus an silver-haired gentleman and a beautiful tall woman.

The silver-haired man was Gov. John Y. Brown. And the lady with him, of course, was Phyllis George Brown.

They were taking an afternoon walk down Capital Avenue and Phyllis was pregnant with the second child. When they got in front of KPA, she said she told the governor, "I know KPA is an OK organization. Lets ask them if I can use the restroom."

Who's going to say no to the First Lady? I invited her to use my private bathroom. That gave me a couple of minutes to chat with the governor as he looked at the Wall of Presidents and noted which ones he knew.

Wouldn't you know, when we moved to Consumer Lane in 1991 I forgot to bring that toilet seat with me.

♦♦♦♦

Ed Staats hadn't been in Kentucky long. Ed was the new bureau chief for the Associated Press and offered to be involved in KPA activi-

ties. We put him on the KPA News Editorial Division board.

His first meeting with the division included some familiar faces for him -- David Hawpe, Jim Henahan and a couple of others. One he had not met until that day was Larry Craig.

We sat in the large conference room table at the Capital Avenue building, with Larry and David Hawpe sharing a stories, seeing who could outdo the other. Some 15 minutes past the schedule starting time, Jim Henahan, who was chairing the division at the time, still hadn't made it in from Elizabethtown.

Staats was growing more and more impatient, wondering why we were so laid back on starting a meeting.

Finally he asked, "Who's going to chair this meeting if Henahan doesn't show up?"

The Right Rev. Larry Craig put his briefcase on top of the conference room table, opened it slowly, put his hand inside, pulled it back out and in his drawl, said, "I will if I want to." At that point, Larry closed the briefcase lid and placed his handgun on top of it.

Staats' eyes were about the size of half-dollars. He didn't complain any more about Jim Henahan being late.

♦♦♦♦

Now if I check into a hotel room and find a number of large boxes in it, I think I'd ask the front desk to put me someplace else.

Back in the 1980s, KPA was to judge the Mississippi Press Association contest. Mississippi didn't want to spend the money to fly the entry boxes to us so they put them on a Greyhound bus to Frankfort. I went to the bus station, all the boxes had arrived and took them to the Sheraton Hotel in Lexington.

I left the boxes with the front desk and specific instructions that they were to be put in Kelly Green's room. She'd be arriving later and to please store them in her room.

I haven't met too many Kelly Green's in my life so I didn't think twice about there being another Kelly Green and it never crossed my mind there could be two Kelly Green's staying at the same hotel in Lexington.

But there were.

I got to the hotel the next morning, expecting to introduce the KPA judges to Kelly Green and to get them started on their duties. Instead I was met at the door by former Clay City Times publisher Jerlene Rose who told me the boxes could not be found. It was time to start the judging yet there was nothing to be judged.

After some futile attempts talking with the front desk, we found there was a second Kelly Green at the hotel. And all those contest entries were in his room. The front desk called his room a couple of times but he said he would not allow anyone in to get the boxes and to not call his room again.

The hotel manager called with the same result. In fact, that Kelly Green was getting more irritated with each contact.

The manager asked the occupant to just set the boxes outside the room, offered discounts and other amenities, anything to get the contest materials to us.

Finally, after nearly two hours of negotiations, the boxes were thrown into the hallway and we were able to start judging.

It takes a vision to see the future of business

Whether an organization, community or a person without a vision we will simply perish
No vision and you perish;
No ideal, and you're lost;
Your heart must ever cherish
Some faith at any cost.
Some hope, some dream to cling to,
Some rainbow in the sky,
Some melody to sing to,
Some service that is high.

-Harriet Du Autermont

For the past 35 years, I have worked with a variety of organizations, communities, and individuals to help them in their strategic planning processes. It is this type of work that we are currently doing in collaboration with the Kentucky Press Association, its staff and management and its board.

There is nothing magical or mystical about strategic planning. Strategic planning is simply a management tool albeit one not used as often as it should be in most organizations.

As with any management tool, it has specific purposes: to help an organization do a better job - to focus its energy, to ensure that members of the organization are working toward the same goals, and to assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment.

In short, strategic planning is a disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future.

Simply, a strategic plan is built on consensus and is an agreed upon way to move forward.

One of the first and one of the most critical parts of developing an effective strategic plan of action is to understand the importance of having a vision.

A vision is what you want to be "when you grow up" and what it is you want to accomplish as you walk your path. A vision helps you define what it is you want to be like and look like when you arrive at your final destination, which usually you never arrive at since the destination keeps changing over time.

A vision is important whether you are a small firm of two people, a chamber of commerce, a nonprofit association or a community of 30,000 diverse people.

A vision is developed only after there is significant conversation among the various parties that must create it and then go about doing those tasks necessary to make it a reality. Boards, managers and staffs must agree upon the vision for it to be effective.

When you begin the process of strategic planning, visioning comes after this dialogue and after there is an understanding of the need for change and how difficult change can be.

What is our preferred future?

"When we are tired enough of doing the same old thing or our pain is intense enough we will seek change."

- Dr. L. Darryl Armstrong - Armstrong and Associates

Strategic Planning

By L. DARRYL ARMSTRONG
Guest Columnist



When visioning change, we must ask ourselves, "What is our preferred future?"

To effectively do this we must be sure to draw on the beliefs, mission, and environment of the organization; describe what we want to see in the future; being very specific to the organization; be positive and inspiring; not assume that the system will have the same framework as it does today because change is always underway; be open to dramatic modifications to current the organization, or the current methodology, teaching techniques and facilities.

What are the key components for a vision?

"Be sure to choose what you believe and know why you believe it, because if you don't choose your beliefs, you may be certain that some belief, and probably not a very creditable one, will choose you."

- Robertson Daviess
The Deptford Trilogy

What this means is that a person should embrace ideas and beliefs that sit well with him or her at the present time, while keeping in mind that as awareness about reality expands with the advent of new experiences, so must one's concept of reality change accordingly.

Therefore our vision must encompass our belief system. Our beliefs must meet our organizational goals, as well as community goals; be a statement of our values; be a public and visible declaration of our expected outcomes; be precise and practical; guide the actions of all involved; reflect the knowledge, philosophy and actions of all that participate; and be a key component of our strategic planning.

These are examples of creative vision statements:

- The Bluegrass Community & Technical College District will be the premier provider of educational opportunity and a leading force for social and economic vitality in the region.
- The Kentucky New Era will be the first choice for reliable news and information in the Pennyrile region.
- Storm Lake will be a premier regional and economically progressive community in northeast Iowa.

Benefits of Visioning

The process and outcomes of visioning may seem vague and superfluous. However, the long-term benefits are substantial.

- Visioning:
- Breaks us out of boundary thinking.
 - Provides continuity and avoids the stutter effect of planning fits and starts.
 - Identifies direction and purpose.
 - Alerts stakeholders to needed change.
 - Promotes interest and commitment.
 - Promotes laser-like focus.

- Encourages openness to unique and creative solutions.
- Encourages and builds confidence.
- Builds loyalty through involvement (ownership).
- Results in efficiency and productivity.

Vision Killers

As we engage in the visioning process, we must be alert to the following vision killers:

- Tradition - "We have always done it this way" mentality
- Fear of ridicule
- Stereotypes of people, conditions, roles and governing councils
- Complacency of some stakeholders
- Fatigued leaders
- Short-term thinking
- "Naysayers"
- Autocratic management culture

Strategic planning doesn't attempt to make future decisions.

Within our dreams and aspirations we find our opportunities.

- Sue Atchley Ebaugh

Strategic planning is about fundamental decisions and actions, but it does not attempt to make future decisions. Strategic planning involves anticipating the future environment, but the decisions are made in the present. This means that over time, the organization must stay abreast of changes in order to make the best decisions it can at any given point - it must manage, as well as plan, strategically.

Strategic planning is not a substitute for leadership

Strategic planning has also been described as a tool - but it is not a substitute for the exercise of judgment by leadership. Ultimately, the leaders of any enterprise need to sit back and ask, and answer, "What are the most important issues to respond to?" and "How shall we respond?" Just as the hammer doesn't create the bookshelf, so the data analysis and decision-making tools of strategic planning do not make the organization work - they can only support the intuition, reasoning skills, and judgment that people bring to their organization.

Strategic planning doesn't usually flow smoothly

Finally, strategic planning, though described as disciplined, does not typically flow smoothly from one step to the next. It is a creative process, and the fresh insight arrived at today might very well alter the decision made yesterday. Inevitably the process moves forward and back several times before arriving at the final set of decisions. Therefore, no one should be surprised if the process feels less like a comfortable trip on a commuter train, but rather like a ride on a roller coaster. Yet even roller coaster cars arrive at their destination, as long as they stay on track!

The time is now

See ARMSTRONG on Page 8

A big victory for open access, media

On Aug. 21, 2008, The Courier Journal received a big victory in a long-awaited decision by the Supreme Court of Kentucky. The court decided that the identities of donors and amounts of donations to public colleges and universities must be disclosed under the Open Records Act.

To fully understand this victory, and why it was so long-awaited, the history of the case and how it wound itself through the appeals courts is helpful.

The story began in 2001, when The Courier-Journal made an open records request for donor identities and amounts contributed to U of L's McConnell Center for Political Leadership. The Foundation rejected the request claiming that it was a private corporation not subject to the Open Records Act and that, even if it were a public agency, the records would be protected by an exception for records "where the public disclosure thereof would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The Courier-Journal sued the Foundation both to have it declared a public agency and to challenge its use of the privacy exception to withhold the records.

In an order dated July 19, 2002, the Jefferson Circuit Court ruled for The Courier-Journal that the Foundation is a public agency under at least two different definitions in the Open Records Act. The court also held that the privacy exception (which only applies to personal privacy) could not apply to donations by corporations or other entities. The court also reasoned that there was no privacy interest where individual donors' identities had been previously publicized, for example in fundraising brochures distributed by the Foundation.

The Foundation appealed this decision, and in an opinion dated Nov. 21, 2003, the Court of Appeals agreed that the Foundation was a public agency, in part because it acts as one and the same with U of L.

The Foundation attempted to appeal that decision to the Kentucky Supreme Court, but the high court declined to hear the case, thereby letting the Court of Appeals decision stand.

The only remaining dispute concerned the individual donors. The Jefferson Circuit Court ruled on Sept. 18, 2003 that records of more than 47,000 donors must be disclosed while records of 62 donors who requested anonymity may be withheld

From a legal standpoint

By JON FLEISCHAKER
Dinsmore & Shoal
LLP



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

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DINSMORE & SHOHL LLP

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under the privacy exemption. Both the Foundation and The Courier-Journal appealed this ruling.

On appeal, the Court of Appeals reversed the circuit court's opinion and held that all of the donors' personal privacy interests outweighed the public's interest in disclosure. Thus, the Foundation could withhold the identities and amounts for all 47,062 donors.

The Courier-Journal sought discretionary review from the Kentucky Supreme Court, and the court accepted review. Finally, after seven years of litigation, The Courier-Journal prevailed in its fight for open access to public records.

On the issue of the 47,000 donors who did not request anonymity, the Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals. In weighing the interests involved, the Supreme Court found that the donor information sought by The Courier-Journal was of a "personal nature." According to case law, the court is then required to determine whether the disclosure of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. The court determined that any privacy interests of the 47,000 donors who did not request anonymity are minimal and that these donors did not hold a legitimate expectation of privacy in their donations. Weighed against the public's interest in knowing the amounts and sources of monies donated to the Foundation (which funds U of L), the disclosure of the donors' identities did not constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

The Supreme Court, however, held that the privacy interests of the 62 donors requesting anonymity outweighed the public's interests. Its decision largely turned on the fact that at the time of the donation, the Foundation had not yet been ruled a public agency. Therefore, the donors must have believed that their donations were being made to a private entity. The Court noted, however, that future donors to the Foundation are now on notice that their gifts are to a public institution and subject to disclosure regardless of any request for anonymity.

Justice prevailed. Challenging public agencies for full access to public records is often an uphill battle. But in the end, worth every minute. The Supreme Court's decision means that donor records of all of Kentucky's public colleges and universities are now open. This is important because, as the court recognized, "donations" can often be used to influence the policies and actions of our public colleges and universities, and the public has a right to know why and how. Moreover, the decision's impact is even broader, extending to records of "donations" to any other government institution such as county or city governments, local school boards, and any other entity that is a public agency under the Open Records Act.

As always, if you have any comments or questions about this or other issues relating to publication or access, don't hesitate to call your Hotline attorneys.

Some U of L Foundation donors to stay anonymous

BY JOE BIESK
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Future donors to the University of Louisville's fundraising arm won't enjoy any veil of secrecy, the Kentucky Supreme Court has ruled.

Nevertheless, 62 anonymous donors who have previously given to the University of Louisville Foundation and specifically requested anonymity will be allowed to remain anonymous, a divided high court ruled recently. The case was part of an open records dispute between the school and The Courier-Journal of Louisville.

Calling the decision a victory, the paper's executive editor, Bennie Ivory, said, "This has been our position all along."

He added, "We still feel that even the 62 who are excluded should be disclosed. But it's pretty much a victory for the newspaper and for the public."

The ruling caps an open records lawsuit that

began in 2001 after the newspaper was denied records related to donations to U of L's McConnell Center for Political Leadership. At issue was whether the names of donors who requested anonymity should be made public.

"We received the ruling late in the day and have not had an opportunity to review it with our attorneys. We obviously will honor the judgment, but also we are very appreciative of Justice Scott's view," said Keith Inman, vice president for university advancement at the U of L.

Justice Will T. Scott partially agreed with the ruling, but said all donors should be allowed anonymity if they want it.

School officials had denied the paper's request, arguing that the foundation was not a public entity and that the donors had a right to privacy. The school also claimed the foundation was a private corporation and that Kentucky's open records law did not apply.

The newspaper, however, argued that the donors' names and other information, such as how much they gave, should be public. It argued donors could wish to influence university policy or decisions with their money.

The court agreed.

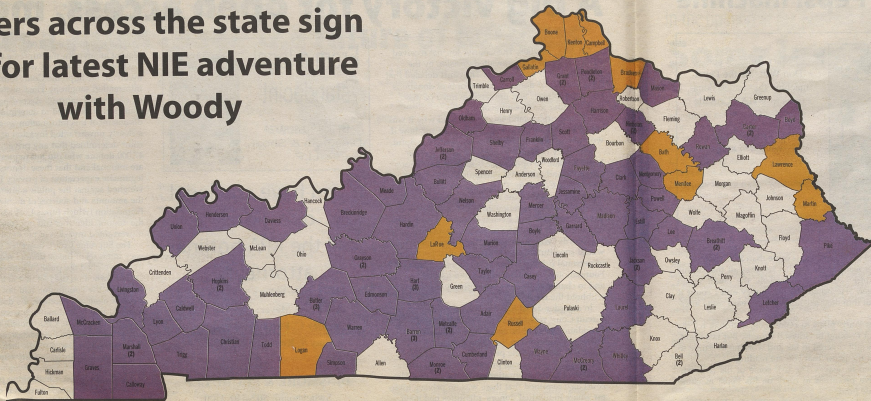
Justices also ruled there was a difference between the 62 donors who specifically asked for anonymity and the rest of the 47,000 people who gave money but made no such request. At the time of the donations, it was unclear whether the foundation was a public agency.

"Future donors to the foundation are aware, and on notice, that their gifts are being made to a public institution and, therefore, are subject to disclosure, regardless of any requests for anonymity," Justice Bill Cunningham wrote in the court's opinion.

Justice Mary Noble and special justices F. Kenneth

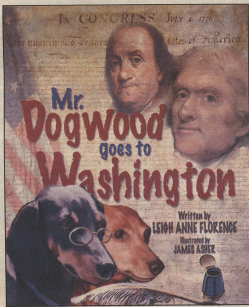
See DONORS on Page 8

Papers across the state sign up for latest NIE adventure with Woody



Heads and Tails 2008 PARTICIPANTS

■ COUNTIES WITH PARTICIPATING NEWSPAPERS ■ NEW PARTICIPANTS (N) = NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING NEWSPAPERS IN PARENTHESES



'Mr. Dogwood' receives international honor

A Lexington Herald-Leader Newspaper in Education project has won the grand prize from the World Association of Newspapers. The paper's literacy project, "Mr. Dogwood Goes to Washington," was sponsored by LG&E Energy, Kentucky Utilities and the Kentucky Press Association. The prize honors the newspaper that devised the year's most innovative project to develop young readership. The World Association of Newspapers is a non-profit, non-governmental organization representing more than 18,000 publications in 102 nations on five continents.

Meet the KPA/KPA Board of Directors New member brings plenty of experience

Chris Ordway
Fifth District Representative



Name: Chris Ordway
Newspaper: The News-Enterprise, Elizabethtown, Kentucky
Position/Title: Publisher
How long held: Four years
Duties, responsibilities of position: As publisher, I am responsible for leading our staff in the development and successful implementation of immediate, short-term and long-term strategies to meet the operational goals and objectives of the company. As regional manager, I am also responsible for providing operational oversight for 7 weekly newspapers within our larger organization.
Previous professional experience in and outside of newspaper industry: Following graduation from Murray State University in 1989, I was recruited by Landmark Community Newspapers Inc. and began my career as an advertising sales representative of the Citrus County Chronicle, a 7-day community newspaper in Crystal River, Fla. From that entry-level position, I eventually served in various leadership roles including circulation director, advertising director and as a contributing member of the newspaper's editorial board.
In 2004, my LCNI career brought me back to my home state of Kentucky when I was named publisher of The News-Enterprise.
Education: Graduate of Murray State University, B.S. Advertising & Marketing
Family: My wife, Christine, and I have two children. Our daughter, Ashley, is a freshman at Campbellsville University. Our son, Jeremy, is a high school freshman.
Civic Clubs/Organizations:
• Rotary Club of Elizabethtown
• CORE Committee, Fort Knox, KY
• Challenger Learning Center, Board of Advisors
• Severns Valley Baptist Church, Sunday School teacher, Youth Ministry volunteer
Goals for KPA: I hope to serve the best interests of member newspapers within the 5th District and across the state through active participation and partnership with other board members to implement strategies that will continuously improve KPA member services and, collectively, the weekly and daily newspapers the association represents.
Views on future of newspapers: It is my opinion that the future of newspapers will be as bright and prosperous as we make it to be. Through innovation in products and services that focus on meeting the changing needs of our consumers, we will continue to play an important role in gathering and delivering the news and information our readers seek.
What is the best advice you can give for successfully operating a community newspaper?
Never lose sight of the importance that the newspaper belongs to the community. Be a good steward of the public's trust; produce an accurate and timely journal of daily life, and be a tenacious watchdog of those elected to fulfill the best interests of the community you both serve. And one last thing, these can all be accomplished at a healthy operating margin.

Charity will continue to benefit from Pepsi machine

BY BYRON CRAWFORD
THE COURIER-JOURNAL

It is fitting that before Don Watts retires from The Courier-Journal, you should get to know him.

Don, who is 59, has spent most of the past 40 years literally helping put together this newspaper and its late, great sister, The Louisville Times. Since 1968, as publishers, owners, editors, columnists and a small army of managers have come and gone, Don was one of the men covered in printer's ink who just kept doing his job, and then some.

I'll get to the Pepsi machine in a moment.

Nearly all of these years, he has driven to Louisville from his former home near Morgantown in Butler County, or his current home on a farm near Leitchfield in Grayson County -- 98 miles one way -- while he and his wife, Beatrice, raised a son and daughter and helped put them through college.

Don has a few old paycheck stubs that prove he sometimes logged 90 hours a week or more at work. He often slept at his mother's home in the Iroquois Park neighborhood during those weeks.

"At that time, there was a code down there that you didn't leave until the paper was done," he recalled. "We had so much work, we worked around the clock."

He started to work at age 18 as a floor boy in the newspaper's Standard Gravure printing company. Then he apprenticed in the composing room, setting type and running the proof press, and operated the furnace where lead was made into ingots for the Linotype machines.

He left The Courier-Journal building after work one day in 1989 just minutes before Joseph Wesbecker entered the same doorway and opened fire on his fellow employees at Standard Gravure, killing eight, plus himself, and wounding 12 others.

Don now works in production/operations, where



Mary Reichelt and Don Watts by the Pepsi machine that fueled donations to WHAS Crusade for Children.

PHOTO BY ARZA BARNETT, THE COURIER-JOURNAL

advertising supplements and other pre-printed materials are sorted, bundled and stuffed.

Which brings me to the Pepsi machine outside the break room in his work area.

About 1978, Don and his fellow workers needed a place to buy soft drinks on the all-night shift after the newspaper's snack bar, operated by the Kentucky Department for the Blind, closed at 11 p.m.

They persuaded the Pepsi-Cola Co. to place a machine in their break room, and Don agreed to keep the machine stocked with drinks and turn all proceeds over to The Courier-Journal Credit Union, now LouChem Federal Credit Union, for donation to the WHAS Crusade for Children.

Over the years, with much help from Pepsi, the price of drinks has been held to only 50 cents. But the amount turned over to the Crusade from the Pepsi machine alone, not counting other Courier-

Journal donations, totals more than \$100,000.

"It's really amazing that he does all that on his own time," said Mary Reichelt, the credit union manager. "He brings me the money and I count it and put it in their account so it can earn some interest."

Don Watts plans to retire soon, and may try his hand at farming in Grayson County. But last night, he was still covered in ink and working overtime to get out the paper that you are reading.

When he leaves The C-J, some of his co-workers have promised to carry on his Pepsi machine Crusade fund.

There is always someone willing to give 100 percent, and then some.

Byron Crawford's column appears on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Reach him at (502) 582-4791 or bcrawford@courier-journal.com.

EMAIL

Continued from page 1

ing out notices of the new law to more than 1,400 public officials across the state. Mayors and county judge-executives are among the officials expecting to receive the open-meeting law updates and they're expected to pass the material on.

Martin said it cost the office about \$150 to do the mailing, because most of it was sent electronically. State law requires the attorney general's office to notify local officials of any legislative changes to the state's open-meetings or open-records law.

Under the law, it's up to individual news organizations or members of the agencies to ask to be notified of any special meetings by e-mail.

Previously, e-mail notifications did not count as an official notice.

The e-mail notification is not mandatory, Martin said of the new law.

Kentucky Press Association President David Thompson said the change had the group's backing. News organizations that want to take advantage of the e-mail option, he said, are being encouraged to send authorization letters to the appropriate local government agencies.

Sylvia Lovely, executive director of the Kentucky League of Cities, called the change a small step likely to have greater significance. "It brings into the modern age the whole open-records, open-meetings concept," Lovely said. "As we move into new technologies, this was a step forward."

Debbie Batliner, a city clerk in Simpsonville, said the change should speed up notifications while saving time and money. "It's definitely more efficient because the word is going electronically," said Batliner, who is also president of the Kentucky Municipal Clerks Association. "It does help us out in our job as clerks."

ARMSTRONG

Continued from page 4

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

There has been much discussion over the years by organizations and communities about the need to create a vision and mission for themselves. Many times organizations go into retreats and hammer out such a plan and then forget about it or get tired of trying to implement it.

In reality, only a small group of people will

ever make a strategic plan happen. There is nothing "magical" or "mystical" about finding an organization's path. It simply requires committed leadership that is willing to involve all the key stakeholders and a focused dedication.

The implementation of the "vision" and new "mission" then requires the adoption of a management culture that is inclusive and open to change; a culture that encourages participation and robust discussion; a management culture that understands that change is organic by nature and is to be embraced instead of feared.

DONORS

Continued from page 5

Conliffe and David V. Kramer concurred. Chief Justice John Minton concurred in part, but disagreed with allowing any donors to remain anonymous.

In Scott's dissenting opinion, he wrote: "At a time when the cost of education is rising, including public tuition, we should be seeking more financial help for those who cannot afford an education, not turning it away with an 'I don't care' attitude."

In the opinion of the Attorney General ...

Some less than quorum meetings OK

The Attorney General's office has ruled that there is no evidence in the record on appeal that a quorum of the members of the Owensboro City Commission and the Daviess County Fiscal Court were present at a single meeting from which the public was excluded or that the members engaged in a series of less than quorum meetings for the purpose of avoiding the requirements of the Open Meetings Act in order to discuss the future of the Executive Inn in Owensboro.

On July 28, Owen Covington and James Mayse of the Messenger-Inquirer submitted complaints to Reid Haire, Daviess County judge-executive, and Owensboro Mayor Tom Watson in which they alleged the agencies violated the Kentucky Open Meetings Act when a series of several, separate less-than-quorum discussions between members of the two agencies led up to the decision by the commission and fiscal court to submit a purchase offer on the Executive Inn Rivermont.

The reporters also alleged that they had been told by Downtown Development Director Fred Reeves that the decision about what purchase price to offer Marshall Investments for the property and the decision to make a formal offer were arrived at during several separate conversations with and between members of both the city commission and the fiscal court, a charge denied by agencies.

As a means of remedying the violation, Covington and Mayse proposed that the action taken by the agencies in support of the purchase be declared null and void until they complied with the open meeting laws.

In a response dated July 23, Owensboro City Attorney David C. Fowler, on behalf of Watson, denied that members of the Board of Commissioners had taken any action in violation of state law.

"Your complaint about the erroneously perceived 'decision' by the city commission and Daviess County Fiscal Court to submit a 'purchase offer' to Marshall BankFirst for the Executive Inn property is inaccurate," Fowler wrote. "You wrongly assumed that a formal decision was made based on prior conversations by and between individual members of both the city commission and the Daviess fiscal court. Based on your foregoing, you assert that the city and the county intentionally engaged in conduct in violation of (state law)."

Fowler called the reporting "unfounded" and "misguided."

The Owensboro Board of Commissioners and the Daviess County Fiscal Court properly convened in an open meeting and subsequently went into closed session July 18 to discuss the future acquisition of property on the basis that public disclosure of such deliberations would likely affect the value of the property in question.

"Nothing in the Kentucky Open Meetings Act prohibits the city manager from discussing property acquisition issues with individual members of the Board of Commissioners," Fowler wrote.

In a letter dated July 23, Claud Porter, Daviess County Attorney, acknowledged that the two agencies had convened in an open meeting and moved to enter into a closed session to discuss future property acquisition.

"The Daviess Fiscal Court had made no final decision on whether to acquire any real property," Porter wrote. "When the court makes a decision, it will convene in an open session for that purpose

with proper notice to the public as required by the Open Meetings Act."

On July 23, Covington initiated an appeal to the Attorney General's office, arguing that the series of discussions that lead up to the decision by the commission and the fiscal court to submit a purchase order on the Executive Inn Rivermont constituted a violation of state law.

KRS 61.810(2) contains the following passage: Any series of less than quorum meetings, where the member attending one or more of the meetings collectively constitute at least a quorum of the member of the public agency and where the meetings are held for the purpose of avoiding the requirements of (state law).

The Kentucky courts have ruled that for a meeting to take place within the meaning of the act, public business must be discussed or action must be taken by the agency. Public business is not simply any discussion between two officials of the agency. Public business is the discussion of the various alternatives to a given issue about which the board has the option to take action. Taking action is defined by the Open Records Act as "a collective decision, a commitment or promise to make a positive or negative decision, or an actual vote by a majority of the member of the governmental body."

Because there is no evidence in the record on appeal that a quorum of the members of the committee were present at a single meeting from which the public was excluded, or that the members engaged in a series of less-than-quorum meetings for the purpose of avoiding the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, the A.G.'s office found no violations.

"We do not believe that the Open Meetings Act prohibits all contacts by and among the members or a public agency outside of an open and public meeting," the A.G.'s office said in a release. "When as here, a draft of an ordinance was being prepared for discussion at an open and public meeting and the person preparing the draft merely sought comments and suggestions for the individual (agency) members relative to the terms and provisions of that ordinance, there is no violation of The Open Meetings Act," the A.G.'s office wrote.

In their responses, both agencies acknowledged that there had been less-than-quorum meetings and conversations between the city manager and the county judge-executive and individual meetings between individual members and staff of both agencies.

"Both agencies affirmatively stated that the purpose of the discussions was to educate members on the specific issue about the future of the Executive Inn property and the role, if any, both local government should play in it," the A.G.'s office wrote. "This is the type of less than quorum meeting which KRS 61.810(2) permits and was recognized as a legitimate reason for such meeting under that statute ... Both agencies further affirmatively stated that the members did not meet in a series of less-than-quorum meetings to avoid open meeting requirements."

Although the A.G.'s office found no evidence of either group violating the Open Meetings Act, it called for caution.

"We nevertheless continue to ascribe to the view that the practice of engaging in a series of less-

than-quorum meetings to discuss public business should constitute the rare exception to the general rule of public discussion and legislative policy that 'the formation of public policy is public business and shall not be conducted in secret,' even if the purpose of those less-than-quorum meetings is to educate the agency members."

The A.G.'s office also warned public officials should not make a habit of such meetings.

"This office is not inclined to accept such a defense on a recurring basis with the persuasive evidence in the record on appeal supporting the defense," the A.G.'s office wrote.

♦♦♦♦

The Kentucky Attorney General's office has denied an appeal by the Cadiz Record concerning the city of Cadiz.

At issue in this appeal is whether the city of Cadiz violated the Kentucky Open Records Act in denying Cadiz Record reporter Hawkins Teague's request for "the total amount that Benson International paid the city in payroll taxes and occupational license taxes."

By failing to cite the specific exception relied upon and provide a brief explanation of how it applies to the records withheld, the city violated the express and mandatory terms of state law.

The Attorney General's office found that Teague is entitled to know the name and the business in question, as well as whether the business is delinquent in paying its taxes but is not entitled to know the amount of the taxes owed or any other information such as profits, deductions, and salaries which reveals the "affairs of the business."

Although the city did not rely upon these specific and mandatory provisions initially or in responding to Teague's appeal, the A.G.'s office said it was "compelled by significant policy considerations to uphold the denial on the basis of the applicable statutory provisions rather than compound any errors by issuing a decision finding that the disclosure of records intended to be protected from public scrutiny must be disclosed."

In denying Teague's request, Cadiz City Clerk Lisa Rogers merely advised "the information which has been requested is an exempt record under (state law)."

Noting the Cadiz Record "finds no exception specified in (state law) granting the city of Cadiz exemption from the Open Records Act," Alan Reed, on behalf of The Cadiz Record, appealed the city's decision in a letter dated June 17.

In his appeal, Reed said the city has "violated its own precedent created by granting innumerable requests of (a) similar nature in the past pertaining to both individuals and business entities to this publication."

Allen O. Wilson, counsel for the city of Cadiz, initially argued that Teague's request was framed as a request for information, not for a public record.

Wilson said the city was authorized to deny such a request inasmuch as the Open Records Act does not require public agencies to compile information to conform to the parameters of a request.

Likewise, the city's rules and regulations for inspection of public records adopted under state

See RULING on Page 11

Kentucky weeklies wrestle with paid obituaries

To charge or not to charge

BY DAVID GREER
KPA MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR

Donn Wimmer saw the pros and cons of the situation. He really struggled with his decision. He's not alone — others have too. But as of Sept. 1, Wimmer's weekly paper, the Hancock Clarion, began charging to publish detailed obituaries.

"I said in years past that I would never charge for obituaries because I felt like that was part of a newspaper's job to provide that information and I still think that," Wimmer said, "but with the economy the way it is, the trends in the newspaper business where ... it's not really looking good ... we've got to look for every source of revenue we can."

Initially, Wimmer had misgivings but not now. The funeral homes in his community actually brought the idea to him.

"We have two funeral homes in the county and they both encouraged it," Wimmer said. "They said a lot of the other newspapers they send obits to were doing it."

A local funeral home director told the longtime Western Kentucky publisher bluntly: "He told me 'you're losing money by not doing it,'" Wimmer said.

So, Wimmer's weekly in Hawesville now charges \$40 for a detailed obit, which includes a photo. The Hancock Clarion will continue publishing a free basic death notice — one that includes just the name of the deceased, survivors and arrangements. The Clarion won't bill families directly. Instead, the paper will bill the funeral homes and they will bill families as part of the overall funeral expenses.

The newspaper business, Wimmer said, has changed and papers must be willing to look at new revenue sources.

Wimmer, of course, is not alone in his decision. Many newspaper executives nationally, as well as in Kentucky, have wrestled with this issue in recent years. And many have come to the same conclusion. Several Kentucky dailies, but not all, already charge to publish obits — although several have continued publishing free basic death notices.

The Readership Institute at Northwestern University took an in-depth look earlier in the decade at newspaper obituary policies across the country. It didn't find anything resembling a uniform obituary practice. Newspaper policies varied widely, the institute said in a report on its web site, including policies on whether to charge for obits.

But it does appear the trend toward paid obits — a practice seemingly favored by many large metro dailies — is now finding more acceptance among some community newspapers, as well. More than three-dozen Kentucky weeklies responded to a recent unscientific KPA e-mail survey on paid obituaries. The papers were about evenly split among

those that never charge to publish obits, those that always charge and those that sometimes charge, if families desire content not normally accepted in free obituaries.

Of the Kentucky weeklies that publish paid obits, pricing varies widely from those that charge low to moderate flat rates per obit to charging the regular ROP column-inch rate to charging classified and even nonprofit rates.

Not too surprisingly, opinions among Kentucky editors and publishers on paid obituaries vary significantly from those who endorse the idea either because of the additional revenue or because they say it adds consistency to how obits are handled to those who oppose the idea because it turns news into advertising content or reduces the number of obits published or is unfair to low-income individuals.

"The Tri-City News has charged for obituaries for several years now," said publisher Jeff Wilder of his Eastern Kentucky paper in Cumberland. "We encourage personalized obituaries that often include a picture. For many years, it used to be only prominent citizens in the community who were afforded the opportunity to have a photo placed along with an obituary. We encourage it with all of ours."

"Locally, the funeral director pays the charges. One director told me he just includes the obituary cost in the overall cost of the funeral services. We get a number of obituaries from former residents and sometimes these are paid through the out-of-town funeral director or the family. The electronic age — digital pictures and e-mail — has surely streamlined this process."

On the other side of the issue, Greg Wells, managing editor of the Times Journal in Russell Springs, is concerned that if obits must be paid for, then some will be omitted if families can't afford to pay. The Times Journal does not charge for obits.

"With profitability for all papers being what it is I can certainly see why papers would look to this as a revenue source," Wells said, "but I'm not sure it's a good choice. Fundamentally it changes what is news content into advertising content. Readers already have a very hard time understanding the difference between the two and clouding the issue even further by charging to include news has the potential for disaster."

Wells' point was illustrated by a 2002 story in the New York Times on the trend toward more paid obituaries. The story, written by Felicity Barringer, told how two 83-year-old Colorado widows died on the same day in neighboring Colorado communities. Both deaths appeared in a nearby daily paper. But there was a big difference in how the two were handled. One woman's obit, Barringer wrote, was only 45 words long and there was no mention of her 51-year marriage or her volunteer work. But the other woman's obit was 230 words long and detailed her careers of being a hair stylist and nurse. And it mentioned that many friends would remember her as a fun-loving person with great style.

The difference? It wasn't news judgment, The Times reported. It was money. The short obit was published free of charge while the other woman's family paid almost \$95 for her obit. It was billed through the funeral home. The two appeared on the same page in the paper — one virtually indistinguishable from the other, the Times reported.

Josh Byers, publisher of the Floyd County Times and the Hazard Herald, formerly worked at a New Mexico paper that began charging for obits after having published them free previously.

"We ran basic obituaries for free (as we do here at the Floyd County Times now). Part of the explanation was that in the past our newspaper treated obits as regular copy. We cut grandkids if we needed the space; we kept them if we needed the inches. To me, that seemed unfair. One person would ask why relatives were in one obit and not another and there was hardly a good answer."

"By implementing a paid model, we could assure the public that exactly what they wanted would run and not be compromised. Here's what a free obituary consists of and here's what it will cost you to run it paid."

Benjy Hamm is editorial director for Landmark Community Newspapers Inc., a group owning about 20 Kentucky newspapers, most in Central Kentucky. He is not a fan of paid obits although LCNI leaves the decision to its local publishers.

"My concerns about paid obits come from personal experiences. I worked for a daily newspaper in South Carolina that started charging for all obituaries. At one point, we had a list of six small funeral homes that could not place obituaries in the paper because they were more than 90 days behind on their payments. Families could get a small, free death notice, but that was all. I think the families involved and readers were hurt by the policy. A number of other people chose to run death notices instead of paying for full obituaries, further reducing the amount of content in what we know is one of the best read sections of the paper," Hamm said.

"The paid-only policy also can have the unintended effect of reducing the number of obituaries from the minority community, as the public editor for the Raleigh News & Observer has addressed."

"I would hope that if any newspaper is evaluating whether to charge, that its leaders would fully consider the potential impact on readership and credibility. Many larger dailies have determined that paid obits are the way to go, but what's 'good' for the metros isn't necessarily good for community papers," Hamm said.

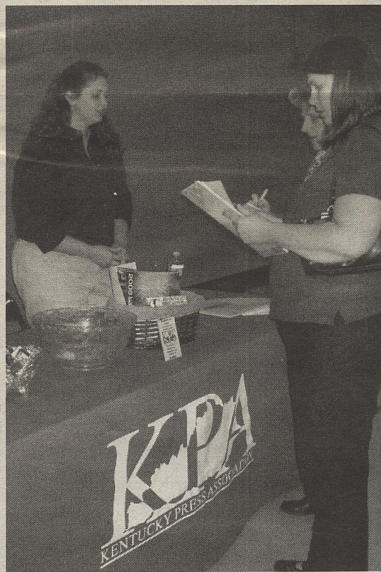
Meanwhile, Becca Lawyer, a member of the Brannon family who owns and operates the Bourbon County Citizen, summed up her feelings this way:

"Economically, we hurt just like everyone else but I can't see our newspaper changing policy that includes charging for obituaries. I'll take a pay cut first."



DONN
WIMMER

Meeting the public



Photos by Teresa Revlett

The Lebanon-Marion County Chamber of Commerce held the Heart of Kentucky Media Fair as a chance for businesses to get together with area media representatives. This event was the first of its kind for the Chamber and was viewed as a success. Media representatives within a 50 mile radius were invited to come to the event. Left: Stephanie Conrad, statewide and 2x2 marketing coordinator for KPS, talks to one of the participants. Above: There were seminars presented throughout the day. Staff members from the Lebanon Enterprise helped organize the event. Here Stevie L. Daugherty, general manager and Debbie Yeager, ad sales rep at The Lebanon Enterprise prepare to meet customers and friends at the media fair. Larry Jobe from Elizabethtown's News Enterprise was the featured speaker on branding your business in advertising. Patricia Krausman from Elizabethtown Small Business Development Center talked about the services provided to small businesses throughout the region.

Specialists discuss future of newspapers

As "The End of the World as We Know It," by REM, blared out of the sound system and screenshots of newspaper pages predicting the downfall of the industry filled a screen, a group of consultants, speakers and trainers met over the weekend of Aug. 15 to discuss the future of newspapers.

Meeting for more than 12 hours over two days, the group -- dubbed Media Specialists Group -- thrashed out ideas concerning several topics including the decline of circulation among metro papers, the relationship between legitimate concern for the community and readership, the long-term impact of outsourcing production to foreign countries and the health and future of the newspaper business.

Overall, there was a sense that community papers could survive and prosper in the future, while mid-size and metro papers need to give more attention to creating quality products that are of value to the community. Several participants echoed the feeling of Kevin Slimp, director of the Institute of Newspaper Technology, that in an effort to improve the bottom line in the short-term, corporate-owned newspapers run the risk of "alienating readers with staff cuts, diminished local news and a 'watered down' product."

Media Specialists think tank opened its doors, inviting area journalists there to participate. Discussions bordered on emotional when the future of newspapers came into question. When asked about the impending doom of newspapers, Ed Henninger responded, "I don't see community newspapers -- mom and pop operations -- dying. I do see larger newspapers, 30,000 and up, having problems."

Jerry Bellune, publisher and business consultant from South Carolina, sees changes ahead. "I can see a day when the advertising side of our business might look more like a present day ad agency where we provide, for our clients, customized services that might include direct mail, outdoor advertising and other services they need to survive against predatory competitors. I think the revenue side of the news business is going to change drastically."

Bob Bobber, circulation trainer from Florida, reminded the group that print, as an overall industry, is in good shape. "While we all realize that metros are hurting, if you take shoppers, weeklies, magazines, the international press, community dailies and niche publications, circulation is doing just fine."

He went on to add that "the days of 30 and 40 percent margins are long gone, but a lot of that is going to be replaced by things like alternate delivery, Web sites and whatever else we come up with over the next 10 or 20 years."

RULING

Continued from page 9

law mandates that requesters identify the specific records being sought and therefore denial of the request was proper.

Wilson also argues that information pertaining to occupational licenses is exempt.

"The occupational license information is exempt (under state law)," Wilson said in the city's response.

Wilson added that occupational license tax information is required by the city and is ordered to be released to the city and is "generally recognized as confidential or proprietary" and is "compiled and maintained for the grant or review of a license to do business pursuant to city ordinance."

Although the city's first response to the request

was "deficient," the A.G.'s office found that the fact remains that the specific information requested is statutorily protected and the office upheld the city's decision.

"As a public agency, the city must adhere to procedural and substantive provisions of the Open Records Act," the A.G.'s office wrote. "(The statutes) contain the procedural guidelines which a public agency must comply with in responding to requests."

PEOPLE

Continued from page 2

tor of the **Middlesboro Daily News** as a dream come true.

Calvert came on board with the newspaper two years ago as a part-time staff writer.

Within a few months, she moved into a full-time position and in the fall of 2007, she became senior staff writer.

•••••

Portia Oldham has been named circulation director for **The News-Enterprise** in Elizabethtown.

Oldham's employment with Landmark Community Newspapers Inc. spans 27 years.

During her career, she served in numerous advertising sales leadership roles including key account executive, nationals/healthcare team leader, automotive team leader, advertising marketing and sales support team leader, and retail advertising manager.

In 2007, Oldham transitioned to circulation where she has served as circulation marketing and sales manager.

•••••



JAMIE
SIZEMORE

Jamie Sizemore has been named publisher of **The Kentucky Standard** in Bardstow.

A Landmark Community Newspapers Inc. veteran of more than 23 years, Sizemore joined LCNI following her graduation from Western Kentucky University in 1985.

In 2006, Sizemore was named the Newspaper Association of America's "Circulation Sales Executive of the Year" among member newspapers with paid circulation of 150,000 and less. That same year, the staff of **The College Heights Herald**, Western Kentucky University's award-winning student newspaper, honored Sizemore as the recipient of its annual "Herald Award" for outstanding contributions to the field of journalism.

Sizemore has also provided dedicated service to the Kentucky Press Association, currently serving the association as its circulation division chairperson.

•••••

Slone Cansler has been named as the new publisher of the **News-Democrat & Leader** in Russellville by **Michael Bush**, president and CEO of Heartland Publications.

Cansler replaces **Randy Fuqua** who moved to North Carolina.

Cansler holds a master's degree from Murray State University and has 12 years of experience in the newspaper industry including stints as managing editor of the **McLean County News** and advertising manager of the **Murray Ledger & Times**.

She began her career as a reporter with **The Messenger** in Madisonville.

•••••

Shannon Dennis has been named the new advertising representative at **The Record** in Leitchfield.

Dennis has advertising experience through the Kentucky Classified Network in Elizabethtown.

Dennis spent eight years in the restaurant business before spending the last 18 months at Kentucky Classified Network.

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The **Lexington Herald-Leader's** **Kentucky.com** cracked the top 30 newspaper Web sites in the United States in July, according to data from Nielsen Online.

Kentucky.com had 1.5 million unique users for July, placing it above the **Boston Herald**, the **Detroit News** and the **Oregonian** in Portland, Ore.

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Kathy Lynch has joined the staff of the **Spencer Magnet** in Taylorsville.

Lynch began working at the paper on a temporary basis to help during the transitional period after **John Shindlebower's** resignation. She has agreed to join the staff on a full-time basis.

Lynch started her journalism career at the University of Louisville newspaper - **The Louisville Cardinal** where she is still an active member as chief copy editor.

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A **Lexington Herald-Leader** Newspaper in Education project has won the grand prize from the World Association of Newspapers.

The paper's literacy project, "Mr. Dogwood Goes to Washington," was sponsored by LG&E Energy, Kentucky Utilities and the Kentucky Press Association.

The prize honors the newspaper that devised the year's most innovative project to develop young readership.

The World Association of Newspapers is a non-profit, non-governmental organization representing more than 18,000 publications in 102 nations on five continents.



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