

KANSAS PRESS THIS WEEK – May 18, 2005
Kansas Press Association
5423 SW 7th Street - Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone (785) 271-5304 - Fax (785) 271-7341

UTILITIES BOARD WITHHOLDS AGENDA FROM KANSAS CITY KANSAN

(Kansas City Kansan) The Board of Public Utilities has refused to release its agenda packet to the Kansas City Kansan, an act one attorney says is in violation of the Kansas Open Records Act. Earlier this month, Susan Allen, BPU public affairs officer, sent an e-mail to the Kansan that read: "Our board president has told us not to issue an agenda packet to The Kansan."

Although the BPU would give the Kansan a list of agenda items, staff would not release the agenda packet, a practice BPU President Jim Head said he implemented in 2003. Allen said the board packets are given to The Kansas City Star. Head said his decision, which was not put before the entire board, to refuse the Kansan access to the packets is based on "abusive reporting."

"They have to provide public records upon request," said Mike Merriam, an attorney who represents the Kansas Press Association. "It doesn't make a difference whether or not they like The Kansan."

Not all BPU board members refused information to the newspaper. Board member Mark Jones volunteered his own packet. Mary Gonzales said she wasn't aware of any recent refusal to give the Kansan information, and Loretta Colombel said she had no objection to the Kansan receiving the packet.

"If we give the packet to one newspaper, we cannot single anyone out and not give it to another," said Colombel. "Everything we do has to be above board."

PRATT TRIBUNE TO PRINT NAMES OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

(Pratt Tribune) As a matter of long-standing policy the Pratt Tribune has not published the names of juvenile offenders. The policy, according to a May 4 story in the Tribune, went hand-in-hand with a long-standing belief that the crimes committed by those under age 18 are missteps that can be corrected and are only aggravated by the weight of public disapproval.

"Times change," wrote Editor Conrad Easterday. "Increasingly, juvenile suspects are being tried as adults, especially for more serious offenses."

According to media attorney Mike Merriam, Kansas law allows public access to the official court files of any juvenile 14 or older. Merriam said most newspapers match their policies to the statute.

The decision in Pratt was spurred by a batch of burglaries for which the county attorney had charged a handful of teenage boys. The Tribune will now print the names of juvenile offenders, but not juvenile suspects. Those charged will only be named if they are found guilty, said Easterday.

ALLEGED DESTRUCTION OF OPEN RECORD TO BE INVESTIGATED

(Concordia Blade-Empire) Cloud County Attorney Robert Walsh has opened an investigation into the alleged destruction of an open record by Cloud County Community College President George Knox. Knox, who read a prepared statement before resigning his position at a CCCC Board of Trustees meeting earlier month, preceded the statement by saying his comments would be open to the media via an open records request.

KNCK staff member Brian Strait made a request for the record immediately following the meeting. At the time, both he and Blade-Empire editor Brad Lowell were told by Knox that the comments would be available in three days via an open records request.

The next day, Strait was informed that the record would not be made available. Carter File, acting open records custodian for the college, informed both KNCK and the Blade-Empire that the record had been destroyed. The Blade-Empire received a letter of apology from Knox, in which he stated it was his policy to destroy all personal notes after every board meeting. Knox wrote that he believes the notes he referred to at the board meeting were personal, not an open record.

Attorney Mike Merriam said when Knox stated his remarks would be available by an open records request, it made them a public record.

ONLY SIX SPOTS LEFT FOR LAST AD ACADEMY WORKSHOP

There are only six spots remaining in KPA's final Ad Academy workshop, scheduled Friday, June 17, at the KPA office in Topeka. This will be the last regularly-scheduled academy with instructor Ken Bronson. Bronson, though not retiring from his work as a newspaper consultant or as director of the Kansas Newspaper Foundation, will be retiring as academy instructor.

The Academy is an interactive workshop designed for both new and experienced sales reps that want to become more effective in their sales efforts. The one-day session covers prospecting for new customers, understanding competitors, handling basic objections, developing sales presentations, closing techniques, customer service skills and designing effective spec ads.

To ensure individual attention, the class is limited to 10 participants. Registration is \$150 per person, which includes continental breakfast, lunch and class materials. For more information, or to register for the workshop, contact the KPA office at (785) 271-5304 or info@kspress.com.

NATIONAL WRITERS WORKSHOP IN WICHITA THIS WEEKEND

The Midwest National Writers Workshop is scheduled this weekend, May 21-22, in Wichita. Registrations are still being accepted.

The workshop, which is one of eight being planned around the country and the only one in the Heartland, is hosted by The Wichita Eagle and sponsored by the Poynter Institute for Media Studies. The schedule includes speakers from The Kansas City Star, University of Illinois, Poynter, St. Petersburg Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Great Falls Tribune, Baltimore Sun, Los Angeles Times and The Wall Street Journal.

Registration is \$85 for professionals and \$20 for students. Sleeping rooms are available at the Hyatt Regency Wichita for \$99 per night (up to four people per room). For complete details, visit www.kansas.com (find the link at the lower left of the page).

NEW SURVEY FINDS HUGE GAP BETWEEN PRESS, PUBLIC ON MANY ISSUES

(Editor & Publisher) A new survey reveals a wide gap on many media issues between a group of journalists and the general public. In one finding, 43 percent of the public say they believe the press has too much freedom, while only 3 percent of journalists agree. Just 14 percent of the public can name "freedom of the press" as a guarantee in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, in the major poll conducted by the University of Connecticut Department of Public Policy.

Six in ten among the public feel the media show bias in reporting the news, and 22 percent say the government should be allowed to censor the press. More than 7 in 10 journalists believe the media does a

good or excellent job on accuracy - but only 4 in 10 among the public feel that way. And, a solid 53 percent of the public thinks stories with unnamed sources should not be published at all.

However, the journalist part of this new poll, seems to weigh its sample heavily toward managers, and may not represent a true cross-section in the profession. Of 300 surveyed - with 120 from TV and 180 from newspapers - a lopsided 43 percent of them were news directors or editors, 4 percent TV producers, 5 percent news analysts and columnists and just 47 percent at the reporter level. One in three have spent 25 or more years in the field. They were overwhelmingly white (83 percent), largely male (70 percent) and relatively well-paid (with a significant number making more than \$100,000). And there was this gap: roughly 90 percent of the journalists had a college degree versus only 23 percent of the general public.

Ken Dautrich, chair of the Department of Public Policy, said one of the most surprising findings was that a majority of the public (59 percent) joined the journalists in supporting their right to keep sources confidential even when tested by the courts - odd, in light of fact that a majority of the public say they don't think stories with unnamed sources should be published in the first place. In a related area, 55 percent of nonjournalists support the current effort to enact a federal Shield Law, as did 87 percent of news people.

Newspaper relevance in the average American's news diet appears to have slipped, with 61 percent of nonjournalists using television as their main news source, and only 20 percent citing newspapers. For complete survey results, see the attached PDF files.

MISSOURI NIE COURSE OPEN TO KPA MEMBERS

A Newspaper In Education training course, scheduled July 20-22 at University of Missouri in Columbia, is open to Kansas newspaper professionals and educators.

"The Living Textbook: Integrating the Newspaper into the K-12 Curriculum" is a 16-hour workshop offered for one hour of graduate credit or as a seminar for continuing education. It will address ways to use the newspaper to improve standardized test scores and to achieve standards-based competency across the curriculum. Media literacy will be covered, including a tour of a newspaper facility.

The course will meet on the campus in Columbia, Mo., from noon to 4:30 p.m. July 20; from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. July 21; and from 8:30 a.m. to noon July 22. Educational specialists and Newspaper In Education professionals will share techniques and ideas.

The seminar is \$200 per person, which includes a 250-plus page resource book. Overnight accommodations range from \$25 per night for two nights in on-campus housing to \$70 per night at Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia. There is an additional fee from the University for graduate credit.

For more information on the course, visit <http://mudirect.missouri.edu/catalog/courseinfo.asp?n=496> or contact Dawn Kitchell, NIE Director for Missouri Press Association, at (636) 932-4301.

NEWSPAPERS, STUDENTS PUBLISH RILEY COUNTY SPECIAL SECTION

Kansas State University journalism students - along with area students, newspaper staff members, area educators and community members - worked together this spring to produce "Riley County Legacy," a special newspaper section dedicated to the county's 2005 sesquicentennial celebration.

"This project has been a great way to help students learn about their past and how they are connected to it," Gloria Freeland, coordinator for the 16-page special section, said. "I like students to do practical projects that give them hands-on experience in journalism. I also like to get different age groups involved."

Those involved in the project included: students at Riley County Grade School, Randolph Middle School and Riley County High School; students in Kansas State University's A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass

Communications; staff members from the *Riley Countian*, *K-State Collegian* and *Salina Journal*; and educators from K-State, Riley County grade and high schools and Randolph Middle School.

The section was inserted in the 1,200-circulation weekly *Countian* as well as in 5,000 copies of the 11,500-circulation daily *Collegian*. It was also distributed to the Riley County Historical Museum and area libraries and schools. Helping coordinate the project was Romelle Van Sickle, former editor of the *Countian*.

“This project is a celebration of 150 years in Riley County, and focuses on the small communities and their people,” Van Sickle said. “In researching the stories, the middle and high school students gained knowledge about their surroundings and history and university students who are not familiar with small towns walked away with an appreciation of the friendliness of rural Riley County.”

POET LAUREATE OFFERS FREE COLUMN TO NEWSPAPERS

A free column written by Ted Kooser, U.S. poet laureate from Nebraska, is available to Kansas newspapers through the American Life in Poetry organization. The sole mission of the ALP project is to promote poetry and to create a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. There are no costs for reprinting the columns, but ALP does require that you register your publication and that the text of the column be reproduced without alteration.

Each week, a new column is posted. Registered publications will receive new columns by e-mail, and an archive of previous columns is available for publication. For more information, visit www.americanlifeinpoetry.org.

UPCOMING KPA EVENTS

June 16

KPA Board Meeting
KPA office in Topeka

June 17

Ad Academy – flier attached!
KPA office in Topeka

June 24

Basics of InDesign – flier attached!
Wichita State University

July 7

Leadership Academy
KPA office in Topeka

July 23

Bud Bruce Memorial Golf Scramble
Chanute

July 24

Little Brown Jug Qualifying Tournament
Chanute

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Cindy Clingan, advertising director for the Pittsburg Morning Sun, has announced her decision to remain at the Sun. Clingan had recently accepted a position as advertising director of the Brainerd (Minn.) Dispatch. Both newspapers are owned by Morris Communications.

The Kansas Christian, a biweekly religious newspaper published in Topeka, ceased publication with its May 6 issue. The Christian, an affiliate member of Kansas Press Association, was founded 15 years ago.

A fire in the pressroom at the McPherson Sentinel earlier this month caused delivery delays. The paper was printed out of town while parts were being ordered for the repairs.

The Phillips County Review has launched a Web site, www.phillipscountyreview.com. The site provides contact information for the newspaper, links of interest to readers, weather information, a photo gallery for ordering reprints, obituaries and subscription information.

MEMBER MARKETPLACE

Member newspapers may place free 35-word classifieds in the Member Marketplace. Additional words are 50 cents each. Ads will run four weeks in KPTW and four weeks on the KPA Web site. E-mail your ad to info@kspress.com or fax to (785) 271-7341. KPA periodically receives resumes from journalists seeking positions at Kansas newspapers. Resume information is posted online at www.kspress.com. To view job candidates, click on the Journalism Jobs tab, then click on the "Find an Employee" link.

NEWSROOM OPENINGS

General assignment reporter/photographer wanted for award-winning daily in foothills of the Ozarks. Growing circulation on 5,600 paper with great staff. Exceptional benefits through prestigious Harris Enterprises. Send resume and clips to Ann Charles, Parsons Sun, PO Box 836, Parsons KS 67357 or acharles@parsonssun.com.

General assignment/sports writer position available on three-day a week community newspaper in Beloit. Call Brad Lowell at (785) 243-2424 or Barbara Axtell at (785) 738-3537 or e-mail jbrad@cebridge.net.

Immediate opening for managing editor. The Guymon (Okla.) Daily Herald is seeking a managing editor for 2,800-circulation, six-day afternoon (Mon.-Fri.) and Saturday a.m. Only daily newspaper in the three-county Oklahoma Panhandle. Ideal candidate will have j-degree and community news ethic. Must be a team player and able to supervise staff of two full-time reporters and sports editor. Computer knowledge necessary and Quark and Photoshop experience a plus. Salary negotiable with benefits package including medical, dental, 401(k) and vacation and paid holidays. Great living and working environment. Send resume to Don Mosher, publisher, Guymon Daily Herald, P.O. Box 19, Guymon, OK 73942-0019 or e-mail publisher@guymondailyherald.com.

Managing editor wanted for weekly newspaper in north central Kansas. Must have good writing skills; be able to cover community boards and events; sports and photography included. We are seeking a person to be active in the community and to attain a high level of local news coverage. Apply to: Dale Worley, publisher, Osborne County Farmer, P.O. Box 130, Osborne, KS 67473, ospubco@ruraltel.net.

News Editor: The Atchison Daily Globe is seeking a news editor to help lead its seven-person news staff. The Globe is a 4,000-circulation, six-day (Mon.-Sat.) daily newspaper in northeast Kansas known for its award-winning quality and dedication to fair and accurate community journalism. Responsibilities include page design and editing as well as some writing. A degree in journalism or related field as well as experience with QuarkXpress and Photoshop are preferred. Great benefits package. Please submit a letter of application and resumé to: Michael Terry, Managing Editor, Atchison Daily Globe, 1015-25 Main St., Atchison, KS 66002 or e-mail to michaelterry@npgco.com.

Staff writer sought for growing, award winning weekly serving newsy towns between Wichita and Hutchinson. You'll cover news and schools, write features and take photos. Find a home on Page 1 and gain editing

experience. Clips and resume to: Jim Orr, Editor, The Harvey County Independent, Halstead, KS 67056, or jorreditor@cox.net.

Weekly newspaper just outside Wichita area is seeking a part time sports editor to cover local and high school sports. Experience or background helpful. Contact Jeff Cott at 316-788-4006.

The Wichita Eagle is looking for an experienced, aggressive reporter to cover City Hall in this city of 350,000. As our community undertakes several large projects we need a reporter who can watch out for the best interests of our residents and explain how government actions affect them. Come join a staff that has a history of investigating city government and in the past two years has forced the resignation of several top city officials. The ideal candidate will have strong watchdog skills, be able to break exclusive stories and produce solutions-based journalism. This is one of the most visible beats at The Eagle, Kansas largest newspaper. The Eagle is part of Knight Ridder and offers competitive salary and benefits. Send your resume and 8 to 10 clips to: Jean Hays, Public Life Team leader, Wichita Eagle, P.O. Box 820, Wichita, 67201-0820 or jhays@wichitaeagle.com.

ADVERTISING OPENINGS

Advertising Director. The Arkansas City Traveler is seeking an advertising director. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to direct an experienced team of three outside advertising salespeople and one classified salesperson each of whom assist clients in developing budgets and marketing strategies for our print and online editions. Responsibilities and duties include, but are not limited to: Meet and exceed a set monthly revenue budget; motivate, supervise and train the sales staff; keep abreast of current market trends; set monthly goals for sales staff; and prepare monthly promotions. If you are responsible, enjoy people and welcome the opportunity to express your creativity, this may be the position for you. Fringe benefits. Salary and commission depends on experience. Send resume to: The Arkansas City Traveler, Attn: Dave Seaton, publisher, 200 E. 5th Ave., Arkansas City, KS 67005.

Affiliated Products Sales Manager. Be part of one of the country's fastest growing markets. The Morning News, published in Northwest Arkansas, is seeking a sales manager for our affiliated products. This position reports directly to the Advertising Director. The chosen candidate will coordinate sales efforts for several weekly publications, each with an independent sales staff; and work with the newspaper sales manager to educate, motivate and mold approximately 20 sales people into a sales team. We are looking for a person full of revenue ideas they can quickly put into action! We need an individual with at least five years media experience in sales or management who is proficient in preparing and making presentations. Experience in a competitive market is preferred. A background in classified is a plus. We offer competitive pay and a great benefits package including medical plan with a prescription card, dental, vision, short-term disability and 401(k) with company match. If you are ready to get in the game and play to win, please send letter of application along with resume and salary history by May 30 to: Affiliated Products Sales Manager, Human Resources, The Morning News, P.O. Box 7, Springdale, AR 72765, Fax: 479-872-5006. EOE. Drug Screen Required.