



NECROLOGY

National Newspaper Association

2021-2022

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A Legend Lost; In Memory of James Lew Angell

BY MARY ANGELL

Lifelong journalist Jim Angell died Wednesday, August 17, at Davis Hospice Center in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

He was 64.
Born in Spokane, Washington, on May 29, 1958, he was raised by his parents, Carol and Darrel Dean Angell, who were wheat farmers in Walla Walla, Washington. He was an only child.

Angell graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1976 and earned his bachelor's degree in journalism from Washington State University in 1981.

He worked as a reporter at the Tri-City Herald in Kennewick, Washington for several years, where he made friendships that would last the rest of his life.

He moved to Cheyenne in 1985 to take a job with the Associated Press, where he worked until 1998.

He began dating Mary Shannon, then a reporter for the Wyoming Eagle, during the 1989 Wyoming legislative session, and the two were married on May 5, 1990. Their daughter Amanda was born in 1997.

Angell was a devoted and loving father to his only child, Amanda. He taught her to play video games, look for unbiased facts in the news and never be ashamed to be herself. Angell was pleased to welcome into the family Tanner Carroll, Amanda's husband-to-be, and he frequently enjoyed losing to him in video games.

Angell became the executive director of the Wyoming Press Association in 1998. A stalwart champion of government transparency, he lobbied

the legislature to ensure open government and educated reporters and elected officials on Wyoming's open meetings and public records law. In 2019, he received from the WPA the Milton Chilcott Award for his "extraordinary efforts to defend access to public information."

Known for his integrity, Angell was dedicated to the Wyoming news industry and very fond of the people across the state who are part of it. His unfailing sense of humor, carefree approach toward life and love of fun made him many friends.

As WPA director, Angell planned conventions for the state's newspaper people. He not only scheduled workshops and social functions but also wrapped up each convention by leading a jam session with his fellow journalists, encouraging everyone to sing along until late into the night.

As a guitarist and singer/songwriter, Angell played in five bands in Cheyenne: Jammin' Easy, Musical Chairs, Bridge Too Far, No Particular Reason and Another Round. He and his wife were co-founders of the Cheyenne Celtic Festival, which began in 2005. They also led children's worship at Calvary Chapel in Cheyenne from 2014 until Angell became ill.

In 2017, the Angells formed the Wyoming News Exchange, a cooperative service for the state's newspapers that continues today.



Angell



Jim Angell is pictured here with Wyoming Press Association Executive Director Darcie Hoffland

Following his retirement from the WPA in 2018, Angell helped to found the Cowboy State Daily, an online news source, in 2019 and worked as its managing editor until his illness.

He also learned to do voiceover work and narrated four audio books for Boulder Colorado romance novelist, L.A. Sartor.

Angell and his wife visited Ireland twice, and he fell in love with the country's culture — particularly its music — and its warm, welcoming people.

During the last few years of his life, Angell grew out his beard and donned a red suit for his "seasonal work" during the Christmas season. He was well-suited for the job. Children who visited Santa were often treated to a

chorus of "Jingle Bells", and parents as well as children were entertained by his witty banter.

He was preceded in death by his parents and by Jeff "Kong" Shields of Walla Walla, Washington, a close family friend whom Angell considered a brother. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

Arrangements for a celebration of life are pending but will be held in Cheyenne most likely the first part of November. When finalized, details will be posted on schradercares.com.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Wyoming Press Association Foundation at 2121 Evans Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001.

Todd Bailey never lost his sense of humor

BY DANIEL RUSSELL

Publisher | Hobbs (New Mexico) News-Sun

EDITOR'S NOTE: News-Sun editor Todd Bailey was diagnosed with an aggressive sarcoma in his left calf in early 2020. In Oct. 2020, Todd had his left leg amputated two inches above the knee in order to fight the cancer. At the end of October, while at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston for a medical procedure, Todd was informed the cancer had metastasized in his lungs, and his time was short. He intended to write one last column but ran out of time, passing away the morning of Sunday, Oct. 31. This last column chronicling Todd's battle with cancer is written by longtime friend and News-Sun Publisher Daniel Russell.

This last Friday morning, Todd and I were at his place. We talked about him writing his next column on his cancer journey. He said he wanted to write another column and would work on it.

I joked with him that if he didn't get it done, I would write a column for him. But I told him in my version I would out him as a closet Texas Long-horn fan.

He gave me a long stare — or more of a glare — and then quickly insisted he would get to work on it when he got the time over the coming days or week. We smiled.

But he ran out of time.

On Sunday morning at 4:08 a.m., Todd, 49, passed away surrounded by his family. Although the timing was not what he expected, it was how he wanted it to be — with this family.

Todd has shared some of his journey in his fight against cancer. He didn't get a chance to tell his final tale. So unfortunately, here is the best I could cobble together.

First, let's be abundantly clear. Todd is not and never was a Texas Long-horn fan. He was a Boomer Sooner tried and true. It was in his blood. Key chains, visor caps, license plates, T-shirts. You name it; if it could be branded OU, he would love it.

In Todd's last column, he wrote of him receiving radiation treatments

in Houston. When those ended weeks ago, he came back to Hobbs for several weeks of rest, and then he drove back to Houston a week and half ago to begin pre-operation tests for a surgery Nov. 1 to remove a couple of cancerous spots. Yes, just a week and a half ago he was up to driving 10 hours from Hobbs to Houston — oxygen bottles flowing in passenger seat. Probably listening to Depeche Mode or a Dodger's game.

But on Monday, the diagnosis wasn't good. MD Anderson told him there was nothing more to be done. That cough he developed about five weeks ago was the cancer now in his lungs. On Thursday, he and sister — who had joined him in Houston — flew home by private flight back to Hobbs.

By Friday, hospice was called in. He got his affairs in order. Visited with his priest. Saturday, he watched the OU game and got to see them win. By Saturday night, his final path was clear. His sister, who has been amazing taking care of her brother's final days, said his last moments Sunday were peaceful and the way Todd wanted.

During his nearly year and half cancer fight, Todd always kept his sense of humor. He kept working, even if it was remotely. The pandemic's impact on virtual meetings and quarantining actually was perfect for the needs of an editor sitting in Houston covering events and meetings in Hobbs.

He had lived here most of his life. Knew most everyone. We joked it was rare a person in Lea County Todd didn't know or have a connection to.

Indeed, we were always more shocked when he didn't know someone. It was part of what made him perfect for being editor at the News-Sun.

Another quality also made him perfect for being editor: Todd deeply cared about Hobbs and Lea County. He knew the issues. He knew the history. We could always bounce ideas off him. He wanted what was best for this area, the people, its institutions.

He had to sometimes make tough decisions, but he never forgot where he

came from, and this was his community.

Throughout his cancer fight, Todd took everything like a champ. At times, he made it look too easy. But behind his great sense of humor, he struggled at times like anyone would.

The worst I can say is he had his grumpy moments. Tired. Exhausted. Pain. And frustrated in the forced changes he faced. But he quickly rebounded from those rough spots to soldier on.

Things he hated along the way? He hated losing the leg. He didn't miss the massive amount of pain the sarcoma in his left calf caused, but he hated to lose the leg. Actually, it was more he hated having to hop to get around with a walker. A wheelchair would only carry him so far, to so many places. He was ever so thrilled when he got his artificial leg, even if he still needed to use a walker to assist in his balance. Nothing worse than having to wake up in the middle night, knowing if you wanted to use the restroom because of a full bladder from chemo, you would have to hop.

He hated Houston humidity. I think he made that clear so we won't go into that again.

He hated he didn't get to the Hobbs football game Friday night.

He hated multi-grain Cheerios. If you were getting him Cheerios, they had better be Honey Nut.

He hated stuff and clutter. He and I went around and around about getting him crutches way at the beginning. He and his friend Raul talked about wheel chairs. He and his sister talked about stuff he would need like special soft bedsheets made for those undergoing chemo. He always asked what was he supposed to do with it when he was done?

He hated the thought of being a burden on anyone despite him being one of the most generous persons around.



Bailey

He would drop everything to help anyone. He didn't want to be burden on his mom, his sister, the rest of his incredible extended family or even his friends.

He hated being in the hospital and wait times in between treatments. Mostly, he didn't want to be in hospital — whether it was to get a PICC line put in or just for observation with his coughing. He wanted his comfortable bed. He wanted his sleep. He didn't want to be poked with IVs and needles. A Braum's chocolate shake run usually assuaged his unhappiness though.

He hated cancer. It took his friends. It took his dad, who he always sorely missed. Cancer is an evil that takes and takes.

I'll close with this.

If kindness and generosity and love from a community could heal, Todd would have been a healed man. Never was there a day that someone didn't reach out to him to offer encouragement or help. Never. Over the course of a year and a half, never.

Whether it was Hobbsans rallying to provide him a private airplane ride home or bringing him cookies or a ride to the doctor, there was always someone there to help. There are so many acts of kindness too numerous to mention here it would be impossible to list them all. It is a reflection of the measure of community, so I know Todd would want me to say thank you again.

When he wrote his first column about beginning his cancer fight, he was stunned at the support he received. The calls, texts, Facebook posts, people stopping him out in public. He had commented to me he didn't expect that much support, that type of reaction. He was enormously touched and truly humbled.

So on behalf of Todd, thank you Hobbs and Lea County. Thank you to his many family and friends who were there for him. Oh, go Boomer Sooners.

DANIEL RUSSELL is the publisher of the News-Sun.

Michael Mayton Breedlove, 1940-2021

Michael Mayton Breedlove died at his home in Jackson, Alabama, on Sunday evening, July 18, 2021. He was 81. He was born July 15, 1940, in Birmingham, a son of Charles and Helen Breedlove. He grew up in Prattville and graduated from Autauga County High School.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He and his wife, Linda, married in December 1961 shortly after he completed basic training at Paris Island, S.C. He was in the newspaper business for 55 years. At the time of his death, he was one of the owners and publishers of The Thomasville Times. He owned and published The South Alabamian in Jackson for 29 years.

He started working at The Montgomery Advertiser in 1966 selling newspaper advertising. That same year, his wife, Linda, went to work for the Prattville Progress, the town's weekly newspaper, as office manager. Mike later moved to the Prattville Progress where he sold ads and covered sports.

In the early 1970s, they moved to Fairhope to operate the Fairhope Courier. In 1974, they purchased The South Alabamian and moved to Jackson. The Breedloves, along with

Jim and Suzanne Cox, purchased The Thomasville Times in 1996, where Mike and Jim were co-publishers. In 2003, the Breedloves sold The South Alabamian to the Coxes but retained their interest in The Times.

Breedlove was active in the community and the newspaper community. He was president of the Alabama Press Association in 1985. His wife would later be president of the group. In recent years, he and Linda were awarded the association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mike Breedlove was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1986 and served one four-year term. He later worked as a legislative liaison for Gov. Guy Hunt. As a state legislator, Breedlove sponsored legislation to create the St. Stephens Historical Commission and served on the commission's board, as well as chairman.

He also was a hands-on participant in archeological work there that uncovered a lot of the old town that was Alabama's territorial capital. An archeology work building at the St. Stephens Historical Park was named for Breedlove in honor of his work and support of the park.

Mike always regretted not completing his college education from Auburn University. In the 1990s, he attended night classes at the University of Mobile, earning a bachelor of science degree in 1999.

He was a past president of the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce, and was a member of the Jackson Lions Club and was active in other community organizations. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Jackson and was active until his health failed due to Parkinson's disease.

Mike loved Auburn football and fishing in Mobile Bay near Fairhope, where he and Linda lived part time. He loved his family. His parents died just six days apart of cancer at the age of 55, and two younger brothers came to live with his family — one a freshman at Auburn and the other an 11-year-old.

Mike Breedlove is survived by his wife, Linda Hayes Breedlove of



Breedlove

Jackson; son, Michael Mayton Jr. (Cammie) Breedlove of Jackson; sister, Celia Breedlove of Knoxville, Tennessee; brothers, Charles Randall (Libby) Breedlove of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Gregory Buford (Pam) Breedlove of Mobile, Scotty Garland (Donna) Breedlove of Willix, Texas; grandson, Logan Hayes (Alana) Breedlove of Pike Road; granddaughter, Jordan (Kyle) Bailey of Carnesville, Georgia; two great-grandchildren, Averiett Elise Breedlove and Mary Hayes Breedlove of Pike Road.

A memorial service was conducted on July 22 at Jackson First United Methodist Church. Drs. Jim Du-Friend and Ralph Wooten officiated. Jim Cox and Ed Williams were the eulogists.

Honorary pallbearers were Bill Pearce, Buddy Boykin, Jim Cox, Fred Huggins, Bill Keller, Gaines McCorquodale, Mike Whitehead and Ed Williams.

Donations in his memory may be made to Jackson First United Methodist Church

Condolences may be offered at www.lathanfuneralhome.com.

Marc DeLane Brown, 1952-2022

Marc DeLane Brown, 69, of Waterloo, South Carolina, peacefully transitioned on July 13, 2022, to a universe beyond this earth.

Born in Laurens, South Carolina, on September 5, 1952, he was the son of the late William James "W.J." and Claire Brown. He will be lovingly remembered by his daughter, Tara Brown Edwards; son-in-law, Thomas "T.C." Edwards; grandchildren, Carson Brown, Kaia Brown, Katie Edwards, Haylee Edwards, Alisha Brown, Nathan Brown and Ella Williams; brothers, James D. Brown (Judith) and Steff Brown (Debbie); sister-in-law, Tami Brown; and

several nieces and nephews, Kathleen Bloom (Reuben), Emily Brown, Isaac Brown (Shay), Anna Brown, Terry Brown, Gus Brown, Jennifer Brown, Ashley Brown, Alex Brown, Micah Parrish, Scott McGruer and Tiffany Hutchings. He was predeceased in death by his parents and his brother, Chris Brown.

Marc was a graduate of Laurens High School and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was a co-owner and associate publisher of the Laurens County Advertiser along with his brother, James. He was a true perfectionist when it came to the newspaper busi-

ness. He worked hard and played even harder.

During the summer, you would be sure to find him on Lake Greenwood driving his pontoon, The Lemon Drop Yacht, or at home playing his stereo. Marc was a huge music enthusiast and often used music as his form of communication.

Marc liked to live his life a little on the wild side at times and made sure to always live life to the fullest, but he had a heart made of gold. He always felt led to help those in need and would often put others before himself. He also had a huge love for animals.

Over the years, Marc was clear about his final wishes. He always said, "Do not mourn my death, but make sure you celebrate my life." In honor of those wishes, a drop-in visitation was held on Saturday, July 23, at Lakeside Country Club in Laurens.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Laurens County Animal Control, PO Box 238, Laurens, SC 29360 or to Laurens County Memorial Home, PO Box 638, Laurens, SC 29360.

Death is not the opposite of life, but a part of it. — Haruki Murakami

Murray Cohen, 1929-2022

Murray Cohen, 92, of Delphos, Ohio, and Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, passed away on Dec. 7, 2021.

Cohen is survived by his wife, Barbara Safran Cohen, daughters Roberta (Alan) Cohen and Jennifer (Ami) Shneiderman, and stepson Jared (Lauren) Safran and his sister, Irma Schechter. He was an adored grandfather to Claire Cohen, Andrew Cohen Jacob Shneiderman, Maya Mahoney and Alexander Safran. Murray was a loving husband, father, father-in-law, uncle, grandfather and friend to many people.

He was born on August 30, 1929, in Brooklyn, New York, to Ethel (Nas-

sofer) and Nathan Cohen. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School in New York, Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, and received his master's in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He was married to Barbara Safran Cohen for 29 years. He was passionate about the community newspaper business and purchased his first newspaper, the Delphos



Cohen

Herald Inc., in 1962. Over the years that followed, he bought weekly community newspapers throughout the upper Midwest, including northwest Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, southern Indiana and Kentucky. He was active in the Inland Press Association (now America's Newspapers) and the National Newspaper Association. His daughter, Roberta Cohen, will continue to run the newspapers.

Murray had a great sense of adventure and fun. He loved ballroom dancing, playing tennis, travel and much more. He contributed to many nonprofit organizations and created a foundation named in honor of his

parents that he and his daughters used to donate to a wide range of organizations supporting the arts, Jewish institutions, mental health/recovery and other charitable causes.

It is suggested that those who wish to further honor the memory of Murray Cohen may do so by making a contribution to:

Doctors Without Borders-USA, P.O. Box 5030, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5030. They can be called at (888) 392-0392. Visit the Doctors Without Borders' website at <https://bit.ly/3oa1p90>.

Former longtime Tullahoma News publisher passes

Longtime Tullahoma (Tennessee) News publisher, former owner of The Moore County News, career journalist and accomplished race car driver Terry G. Craig passed away at the age of 83.

Craig died in Atlanta, Georgia. He was born in Indiana, Pennsylvania, on June 19, 1938, to Mrs. Lavina Craig. Following a Homer City (Pennsylvania) High School career filled with sports, including being a member of the first team to go undefeated in the school's 75-year history, he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1955 and served honorably for four years. During that time, he was a member of the Combat Air Strike Force and was awarded several decorations during the Cold War period. He saw duty throughout the world, including Taiwan, Turkey, South Korea, Spain and Cuba. At the time, he used the name of his stepfather, Wilkinson. Following his military service, a move to Miami in 1960 resulted in working for the Miami

Herald for almost 13 years. His start in production led to a sports reporter position and news editor of one of the largest community newspapers in Miami, the North Dade Journal, in North Miami.

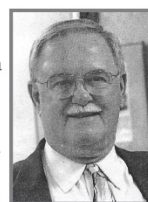
During this time, he met and married Marilyn McGuirt of Miami, and they had two children, Pamela and Colby, who both now reside in Atlanta. He also attended the University of Miami, studying journalism. The family moved to Tullahoma, Tennessee, where Craig took a position with the Morris Simon group of newspapers, which was headquartered in Tullahoma. Following the sale of this group four years later to Lakeway Publishers Inc. of Morristown, he became assistant publisher and eventually publisher for 24 years of the Tullahoma News and a corporate vice president for six weekly newspapers in the area for Lakeway.

R. Jack Fishman, chairman of the Lakeway Board, said, "We

were so very happy and pleased to have had a person with the interest in serving the citizens in the middle Tennessee market with the ability and talent of Terry for those many years. His interest in building and supporting the communities we serve and accurately and fairly reporting the local news has been of great benefit to everyone."

Craig wrote a weekly newspaper column for many years. He also served on the corporation's board of directors and the Franklin County Publishing Co. director's board. He and his wife owned The Moore County News newspaper in Lynchburg, Tennessee, for 27 years.

Moore County Mayor Bonnie Lewis fondly recalled her time



Craig

working with Craig when he owned The Moore County News. "He taught me a lot," Mayor Lewis said, noting she ran the paper for several years. "That was a great learning board for me."

Mayor Lewis considers Craig the consummate professional in the newspaper industry as he brought a wealth of knowledge when he moved to Tennessee from Miami.

"He was definitely a professional in the journalism world," she said, noting she is glad he was able to enjoy his retirement alongside his wife for many years. "I'm sad to hear of his passing."

Craig was a 25-year Rotarian, member of various college and university boards, UGF chairman, Tullahoma Industrial Board chairman and president of Tennessee Press Association.

After 42 years in the newspaper business, he retired in 2000, and he and his wife moved back to Florida

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CRAIG: His last race was the national runoffs at Road Atlanta in 1993 at age 54

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for 10 years, prior to finally moving to the Atlanta area. Craig was an avid hunter for most of his life and a collector. He was an accomplished sports car racer, winning many races, and he was the 1992 Sports Car Club of America Sports 2000 SARRC champion for the seven-state Southeast Division. His last race was the national runoffs at Road Atlanta in 1993 at age 54.

He is survived by his wife, two children and four grandchildren: Lola Pick and Calista, Alex and Cooper Craig. A private family service will be held in Atlanta. The family suggests any memorial contributions be made to a local Salvation Army unit.

Tim Curtin, 1944-2022

Tim Curtin, who owned and operated the Watonga (Oklahoma) Republican and other area newspapers for many years, died December 31, 2021. He was 77.

Chester Timothy Curtin was born September 18, 1944, and grew up in Watonga. He attended college at Oklahoma State University but returned home to run the Watonga Republican after his father passed away. Tim finished college at Southwestern State University in Weatherford. Along with his father, Gerald Timothy 'Cowboy' Curtin, the family owned and published the Watonga Republican for 69 years. In addition to the Watonga Repub-

lican, at one time Curtin owned and operated the Canton Times, Okeene Record, Hinton Record, Hydro Review and Geary Times. He ran the Watonga Republican until he retired in 2010. He was active in various state and local organizations throughout his life including Kiwanis, Board of Health of Blaine County, Masons, American Legion, Oklahoma Board of Prisons and National Guard. Curtin is survived by his wife, Judy; son, Ward Timothy Curtin of Oklahoma City; daughters Trisha Cochlin of Edmond and Carrie Todd of Fort Worth; his sister, two stepsons and many other relatives and friends.

Deb Flemming, 1954-2022

Debra J. Flemming, 67, died Monday, March 14, 2022, at District One Hospital in Faribault, Minnesota.

Deb Wendland was born to Joni and Ken Wendland on Aug. 5, 1954. She graduated from Waseca (Minnesota) High School in 1972 and was a proud student of Drake University and received a degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota.

She and Loren Flemming were married in November 1978 in Waseca. They lived in Waseca, Owatonna and Mankato, Minnesota, and Traverse City, Michigan, moving where Deb's job with newspapers took them. The place they both loved and returned to was their cabin on Roberds Lake



Flemming

in Faribault.

After her divorce, Deb continued to live her passions and values in her work and community. She became active in the Landmark program, eventually becoming a leader in its family division, working with children. She also began to explore living in other locales — San Diego and the Largo, Florida, area.

Deb's passion, after her family and friends, was journalism. She worked as a reporter, copy editor and editor, but she relished being

a mentor to young journalists. She was a passionate believer in the First Amendment and the public's right to know what elected officials were doing. She filed several lawsuits against government bodies in support of the Open Meetings Act.

Deb returned to southeastern Minnesota in 2019 to become a consultant for the 761 Foundation in Owatonna and then the editor of the Steele County Times in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota.

She is survived by her family, sister Laurie (Art) Griffith and children, Kristin (Aaron) Hugen, John (Caytlyn) Griffith, Samuel (Hannah) Griffith, and David Griffith; brother Brad (Monica) Wendland and children Matt and Olivia;

step-son Jason Flemming and children, Ashley, Ciiera, Evert and Trinity; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, former husband and niece Abby Wendland.

A celebration of life was held on March 19 at Parker Kohl Funeral Home in Faribault.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the family or the 761 Foundation/Debra J. Flemming journalism scholarship.

Obituary as Deb would have written:

Debra J. Flemming

— 30 —

Sammy Franklin, 1940-2022

Sammy Jones Franklin, 81, of Jena, Louisiana, left this earth for glory on Jan. 28, 2022, at LaSalle General Hospital in Jena following a brief illness.

He was born on May 24, 1940, in Jigger, Louisiana, to the union of Charlie and Alice Wall Franklin.

He was the owner, publisher, and editor of The Jena Times Olla-Tullos-Urania Signal, the official journal for LaSalle Parish, for 54 years, a job that he loved as much as life itself.

His life always centered around newspapers, starting out as a paper boy as a young lad in Caldwell Parish. By the time he was enrolled at Columbia High School, he was on staff at the parish's newspaper, The Caldwell Watchman. Upon graduation from high school in 1958, he worked full-time at the newspaper as a reporter and photographer. Over the next 10 years, he honed his craft and a dream began to ignite inside him to one day own his very own newspaper.

That dream came true on Jan. 1, 1968, when Franklin officially took over operation of two newspapers, The Jena Times and the Olla-Tullos (Louisiana) Signal. Those two papers would be combined within the first year of his ownership to: The Jena Times Olla-Tullos-Signal. During the past 54 years, he continued to

improve the newspaper's quality, from adding full color pictures to updating to modern computers, and into the most recent modern age of the digital world. While many small town, weekly newspapers have closed or drastically reduced their sizes over the past half-century, under Franklin's leadership, The Jena Times has continued to grow.

Franklin believed that to really have a successful newspaper, the publisher and editor must become a part of the community in which they serve. During his 54 years, he has been actively involved in many church, civic and community clubs/organizations.

He helped organize the once very popular Jena Jaycees, which held the very first Howdy Neighbor Day, and he was a member of the Jena Kiwanis Club. He was elected and served a term on the Jena Town Council, has served as chairman of various committees and boards including the LaSalle Parish Library (of which his greatest pride was the construction of the new Jena Library), LaSalle Soil and Water Conservation, LaSalle Parish Ambulance Board, and has spearheaded many other community initiatives including the first-ever Jena Nighttime Christmas Parade, the first-ever Jena High School graduation ceremonies outdoors,

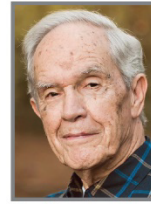
Jena Dixie Youth Baseball, and was instrumental in various companies and businesses deciding to locate to LaSalle Parish.

There was not one part of LaSalle Parish that was not touched, affected and changed due to his influence as publisher and editor.

He was a longtime member of Temple Baptist Church and then Midway Baptist Church in Jena and has served in various positions in those churches, including deacon, music minister and treasurer.

He was a friend to all and gave generously to many in need, always with anonymity. His life revolved around his Savior, Jesus Christ, his family, his newspaper and doing everything he could for the betterment of LaSalle Parish.

Franklin loved the old-time, four-part harmony Gospel music and at one time was part of a Gospel music group that sang in the area. He was also a big fan of George Jones and loved to play his music and sing along to family and employees of his newspaper.



Franklin

Visitation was held on Jan. 31, 2022, at Midway Baptist Church in Jena. A Celebration Service was held Feb. 1, 2022, at Midway Baptist Church. Franklin was laid to rest following the service at the Woodland Cemetery in Jena under the direction of Kinner & Stevens Funeral Home of Jena.

Sammy was preceded in death by his parents; four sisters, Euna Mae Phillips, Bobbie Ruth Franklin, Linnie Nell Franklin and Katherine Ellerbe; five brothers, Bruce Franklin, Tommy Franklin, Cecil Franklin, William "Bill" Franklin and George Melvin Franklin; and two granddaughters, Lauren Franklin and Kassie Franklin.

Survivors include his wife of 41 years, Bonita Francis Franklin; two daughters, Penny Justus of Bastrop and Ashley (Dustin) Keene of Jena; four sons, Glen Franklin of Jena, Craig (Kim) Franklin of Jena, Scott Franklin (fiancée Jamie Clauss) of Jena, and Charlie (Marissa) Franklin of Alexandria; 18 grandchildren (plus one on the way) and 14 great-grandchildren.

In addition to floral arrangements, if anyone would like to make a donation in his memory, please send to Sammy's favorite Gospel-sharing ministry: Wild Horse Ministries, 460 Appleby Road, Trout, LA, 71371.

Longtime Journal-World leader, GM Ralph Gage, dies

Ralph Gage, who for decades served as the day-in-day-out leader of Lawrence's largest media company, has died.

Gage, who died of natural causes Jan. 29, 2022, had worked since 1969 for The World Company, which was the parent company of the Journal-World until the newspaper's sale in 2016. While he worked in a variety of roles, he was known by many as the general manager of the company, making him an architect and executor of the business strategies of the company owned by the Simons family of Lawrence.

"It was a huge loss for Lawrence," said Dolph C. Simons Jr., the former editor and publisher of the Journal-World and chairman of The World Company. "In a sense, he kind of worked behind the scenes. A lot of people in Lawrence (Kansas) may not have known how talented and how good Ralph Gage was."

During his tenure, Gage, 80, helped oversee the transformation of The

World Company from one that primarily was a Lawrence media entity to a firm that owned media properties in multiple states, operated a software firm that moved news from print to online and grew Lawrence's cable television company into one of the region's first broadband internet operators.

"He helped make us look pretty good," Simons said. "It is hard for me to prioritize what he meant to us. He really was a superior newspaper man. He could have worked for and been an asset to any newspaper of any size anywhere."

Gage's roots in the business were as a newspaper journalist. A native of Ottawa who graduated from the University of Kansas' journalism



Gage

school in 1964, he had worked as an editor at the Salina Journal and a member of the newsroom staff of the Metro-East Journal in East St. Louis before joining the Journal-World in 1969.

"He loved the innovation that he was able to help bring to journalism in this community, but at heart, he was a reporter," said his daughter, Susan Gage. "Anybody who ever met him got a sense of that because he was relentlessly curious and asked a million questions."

He also had the characteristics of a fine editor and manager, Simons said.

"He was a taskmaster," Simons said. "He expected people to do their particular responsibilities in a particular way, and he would let you know if you hadn't done it in the right way."

Current Journal-World Editor and Publisher Chad Lawhorn said Gage took very seriously upholding the standards of professionalism at the

Journal-World.

"Ralph was in the sometimes complicated and unenviable position of holding us all accountable," Lawhorn said. "But what was simple to understand is that he cared greatly about journalism and was proud of the people who practiced it well. He used his talents and tenacity to help build a great organization that the community still benefits from today."

As a reporter, Gage was part of the team that covered the 1970 burning of the Kansas Union and the civil unrest on campus. Gage worked as a reporter, managing editor and assistant to the publisher before being named general manager for the Journal-World and The World Company in 1981. He served in that role through 2004 when he became chief operating officer for the company. He retired in 2013 but continued to serve as a member of the board of

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GAGE: During that time period, The World Company also was developing new technology for the burgeoning internet news industry

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directors for The World Company.

Gage was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2016. At that time, he told the Journal-World that he was particularly proud of the efforts to bring together the newsrooms of the Journal-World and 6News, a cable news channel that previously served Lawrence and was founded by The World Company. The "converged newsroom" attracted national attention from The New York Times and drew media executives from across the country to tour the operations.

During that time period, The World Company also was developing new technology for the burgeoning internet news industry. That included the creation of Django, a web-

based interface that went on to help power major websites including Instagram, Mozilla, Nextdoor and others. Journal-World web developers created Django, which led to Gage overseeing a new software development company that created the Ellington content management system, which was being used by about 300 different publishing companies when The World Company sold it in 2012.

Gage also oversaw the growth of one of The World Company's most significant enterprises, Sunflower Broadband. The brainchild of Simons Jr. in the late 1960s, Sunflower was the company that first brought cable television to Lawrence and the surrounding area. During Gage's tenure, the company expanded into delivering telephone and high-speed

internet service throughout the area. The company grew into one of the country's leading independently owned broadband companies until it was sold for \$165 million to Knology in 2010. The broadband system continues to operate today in Lawrence under the Midco brand.

Gage told the Journal-World when he was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame that he enjoyed his long career in the management of media companies, but he said serving the community by providing high-quality news and information was among the most important and gratifying roles he had played.

"I just enjoyed reporting and writing and meeting people," Gage told the Journal-World in 2016. "When I landed here, I had the opportunity

to get into the management side, and then ultimately into corporate management. One thing led to another, and 43 years flew by. Writing and reporting, though, are still the most fun, I think."

Susan Gage said she, her mother, Martha, and brother, Paul, are still determining details of a future "memorial service and party" to honor Ralph.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Upon hearing word of Gage's passing, NNA Director of Public Policy Tonda Rush, who was a reporter for the Journal-World from 1974-77, shared this memory. "He was my last editor. He stood by me once when I was covering a possible terrorist attack, and the publisher wanted to pull me from the beat and put one of the guys in. I got the story and I never forgot that he gave me the choice instead of making the decision for me."

Veteran South Dakota journalist provided voice for people who had been ignored

BY TOM LAWRENCE
Special to the Pioneer

RAPID CITY, South Dakota — Tim Giago seemed unstoppable. He survived a hellish existence in a boarding school for Native children, served in the Navy during the Korea War, endured decades of racist insults, ignored threats, including gunshots and an attempted fire-bombing of his newspaper office and more.

Through all that, Giago kept writing and publishing newspapers, providing coverage for Native Americans across the nation. He threatened to retire many times, but he was always drawn back to a keyboard and a newsroom.

But that keyboard has gone silent, as Giago died July 24 at Monument Heath in Rapid City. He was 88.

"Indian Country lost an icon." Those are the words Doris Giago used to describe his passing.

He was a fearless champion for the Lakota people and journalism. For decades, Giago wrote columns, editorials and news stories, founded and published newspapers and worked tirelessly to ensure Native Americans had a voice in the mar-

ketplace of ideas.

"He was one of the leading voices in Indian country," said Doris Giago, his ex-wife and longtime partner in the newspaper business. "He fought for freedom of expression for years. Our newspaper was attacked, fire-bombed. But threats didn't stop him."

Together, they founded The Lakota Times in 1981, changing the name to Indian Country Today in 1992. The Giagos operated on hope and hard work, using the collateral of a relative's 1950s Chevy to lease a former beauty shop in Pine Ridge.

The Lakota Times was the first independent, non-tribal affiliated, Native newspaper in the country. Photos were developed in the hair-washing sink, and locals were hired and trained.

Tim sold the paper to the Oneida Nation of New York in 1998 and then founded The Lakota Journal, which he operated in 2004.

He considered retirement, but the lure of the newsroom, the excitement and thrill of breaking a story, was too much.

"We used to joke all the time that he tried to retire for 20 years," his daughter Marie Giago of Lawrence, Kansas, said.



Giago

In 2009, he and his wife, Jackie, founded Native Sun News. As he prepared to launch the paper, Giago told NPR about his business plan.

"Reservations are isolated. You know, the Pine Ridge Reservation is 100 miles long

and 50 miles wide. It is still one of the poorest counties in America, and a lot of the people on a reservation can't not only not afford a computer, but they sure can't afford to even pay the monthly internet fees to keep it going," he said. "So the majority of my readers are going to be those people who read papers the old-fashioned way. They go down to the local store, they buy their paper, they take it home and pour themselves a cup of coffee and sit down and read it. And I think it's a really erroneous assumption for most Americans to believe that everybody is hooked into the internet because out here in Indian Country, that's not the case at all."

Giago tried to retire again last year, writing a farewell column. But

he was soon back in harness, writing and editing to get his paper out the door.

For more than three decades, he was a leading voice for ending the use of cartoonish Native American nicknames, logos and symbols by college and professional teams. Giago appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in 1992 to educate people on how offensive the nicknames and mascots were to many Native people.

Some teams have finally discarded those mascots, including the Washington NFL team, now called the Commanders, and the Cleveland baseball team, now known as the Guardians. Giago wrote numerous columns about the issue and helped persuade at least one Rapid City TV station to stop using the deeply racist nickname of the Washington football team.

Giago was a journalist, but he also was an advocate, and he did not apologize for that. He was always proud of his role in the creation of Native American Day in South Dakota.

"In 1989, we talked about what we could do to help change things

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GIAGO: His papers covered housing discrimination, banks ...

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in South Dakota," Giago wrote. "I told the governor that 1990 was the 100th anniversary of the Massacre at Wounded Knee and that South Dakota had been a state for just 11 months on Dec. 29, 1890, the day of the massacre."

Tim urged Republican governor George S. Mickelson, whose father had struggled with racial tensions when he was governor in the 1940s, to call for a Year of Reconciliation between the races in 1990 and to discard Columbus Day and rename it Native American Day. South Dakota was the first state to do so.

"Gov. Mickelson was a man of vision and great courage," Giago wrote. "He took my challenge as just that — a challenge to do better for the state he loved."

It was a courageous stand, but that was nothing new for Giago. When he reported controversial but accurate stories on the simmering and at times explosive tensions on the Pine Ridge Reservation, his office was struck by gunfire three times and was bombed once. An editorial labeled the assailants "cowards," and the paper kept publishing, despite a lack of support from most South Dakota newspapers.

Giago first gained statewide attention when he wrote a column, *Notes from Indian Country*, that the *Rapid City Journal* first published in 1979. Jim Carrier was determined to add a Native American reporter to the staff.

Carrier reflected on hiring Giago and helping him overcome the racism he encountered. "I scoured the country and found fewer than six; all were employed and unwilling to come to western South Dakota. I then learned of Tim Giago, a native of the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation, who had self-published a small book of poems about his education at the Holy Rosary Indian Mission, a church-sponsored school that squelched language and traditions," Carrier said. "A Navy veteran, who wrote for a base newspaper, he'd also run a donut shop and aired a local PBS TV show on Indian topics. He asked that it be in the Friday paper, which was widely read on the Pine Ridge reservation because of the TV listings. We paid him \$8.50 per column, later raised to \$10, as I recall. The result poured gasoline on a fire."

He said for the first time, Indians were reading about themselves in stories that did not dwell on drunks or car wrecks. That was because Giago wanted to tell readers about the Native Americans he knew and the lives they led.

"He reported warts, yes, but largely provided a portrait of Native Americans with families, traditions,

struggles, sports, children, elders, religion, etc. Not many months later, I persuaded him to become a full-time reporter, covering the Pennington County Commission.

"He wanted to cover Indian news," Carrier said. "I refused, arguing that he could not be objective. That was the thinking in the early days of affirmative action — or at least was mine. Several times, Tim would storm into the newsroom after witnessing the racist attitudes of the white commissioners and quit. I would follow him out onto the fire escape and talk him into staying."

"Hiring Tim as the first Native American voice in South Dakota is among my proudest deeds," he said.

Giago wrote columns that were published in his papers, other South Dakota newspapers, the McClatchy News Service, and on The South Dakota Standard and The Huffington Post blogs.

He provided readers with strongly written columns that showed a deep understanding of history, not just Native American history. He wrote with passion and anger at times but could also produce pieces with warm reflections on family, friends and colleagues.

His papers covered housing discrimination, banks charging Native Americans excessive interest rates for loans, exposed bogus "medicine men," and revealed the troubling racial histories and comments of the four presidents depicted on Mount Rushmore in the heart of the Lakota's sacred Paha Sapa.

The American Indian Occupation of Wounded Knee and the violent clashes between AIM and tribal officials was a hot topic in South Dakota and across the nation, but Giago covered it without taking a side. He criticized excessive actions while praising efforts to expose racism and discrimination.

DEFENDER

Giago was born in Kyle, or Pejuta Haka, translated to "Medicine Root," on July 12, 1934.

His parents, Tim and Lupita, had seven children, and Tim grew up with five sisters and a brother. The family had both Lakota and Pueblo ancestry, and the name Gallego, which has Spanish derivation, was converted to Giago.

As a 5-year-old, Giago was dropped off at the Holy Rosary Indian Mission, or Red Cloud Indian School, located on the Pine Ridge Reservation. It was, he recalled, a hellish place for Native children.

They were abused, both physically and sexually, Giago said, including his 9-year-old sister, Shirley. She lived with a deep rage and resentment, trapped by anger and alcohol before telling Giago and her children on her deathbed of the abuse

she suffered.

Giago said while he appreciated the education he received from the Jesuit priests and Franciscan nuns, he was sad and depressed by the exile from his family and culture. For 10 years, he saw friends suffer and in some cases, die.

"I recall being loaded into the back of a truck along with as many boys that would fit in that truck, taken to the potato fields at Mission Flats, having a gunny sack attached to my waist, and then dragging that sack until it was so full of potatoes that I could no longer drag it. I was 10 years old. All the boys working alongside of me were the same age," Giago wrote. "The following week, we were again loaded into trucks and driven to Buffalo Gap, where there were miles and miles of apple orchards. We worked all day for two days picking apples."

He recounted stories from his boarding school years in the 2006 book, *Children Left Behind: The Dark Legacy of Indian Mission Boarding Schools*.

His first book, primarily a collection of poems about his experiences, was started when he was 17 and aboard a troop ship headed to Korea. Giago had left the boarding school to join the military and serve during the Korean War, preferring combat to the tortures and miseries of the school. The book was finally published in 1977 and titled *"Aboriginal Sin."*

In addition to those two books, Giago wrote *"Notes from Indian Country, Volumes 1 and 2,"* and was working on a memoir, which he planned to title *"Indian Country Today,"* in his last year.

Giago ran away from the boarding school when he was in 11th grade. But while those painful memories were with him his entire life, so was his pride in his roots and the history of his people.

When he returned from Korea, Enos Poor Bear gave him his Lakota name, Nanwica Kciji, translated as both *Stands Up for Them and Defender*, in an inipi (sweat lodge) ceremony to celebrate his safe return.

Giago led an adventurous life before winding up in a newsroom. He operated a doughnut shop in Reno for a while before returning to South Dakota.

Giago was married several times — his daughter, Marie, said he avoided a direct answer when asked — and had 10 children — nine daughters and a son. One daughter, Roberta, whom he called "Birdie," was killed in a one-car crash in New Mexico on April 6, 2006.

Marie Giago said he was very content in recent years, enjoying romantic movies with his wife.

"He found his true love in Jackie," she said.

Marie Giago said she is proud of

his career and legacy, but she also wanted to reflect on the kind of father he was to her and her siblings.

"I just knew him as Dad, the man I spent every summer with. We had wonderful summers in the Hills," she said. "He could swim across the pond with one breath, and I thought that was the most wonderful thing. I tried to do that."

She said her father insisted they try new things, including food, introducing them to the use of chopsticks. They rode horses and sometimes fell off them, she said with a chuckle.

When he was 70, Giago had heart bypass surgery, and his children gave him a cat, which they named Pod for the Cabbage Pod heart unit he had been in. They wanted him to have company, but at first he loathed the kitten who jumped on his lap, piercing him with its sharp claws.

But they soon grew inseparable, and Giago would watch TV news at night with Pod on his lap. The cat died a few weeks ago, Marie said, and she realized her father was likely in his final days, as well.

She said Tim Giago first learned he was a gifted writer when he turned in a paper at boarding school and a priest insisted he must have copied it because since it was so well done. That just made him more determined to have his voice heard.

"I think everything he's done for journalism and Native people in general, being our voice," she said.

Giago accumulated many honors, including being the recipient of the H. L. Mencken Award for editorial writing in 1985. However, in 1989, he returned the award and a \$2,500 cash prize when some racist writing by Mencken, a notoriously ill-tempered man and writer, surfaced.

"I feel very strongly that everything that I have fought for in the last 20 years to try and improve race relations ... It just wouldn't wash if I ... kept an award from a person that has attitudes that are so bigoted," Giago said.

He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard in 1990-91 and was named to the South Dakota Hall of Fame and the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame. His papers piled up plaques and honors, but Giago said his primary satisfaction was seeing people reading the paper.

Chuck Woodard of Brookings, a South Dakota State University professor emeritus of English, met Giago at a conference featuring tribal leaders that he organized at SDSU in the fall of 1989.

"I subscribed to his highly informative newspapers for many years and learned a great deal from them for my teaching and for the cross-cultural work I was often doing," Woodard said. Keep reading at <https://bit.ly/3cteQhT>

Former Leader publisher moved newspaper, town into new era

BY SARA KONRAD BARANOWSKI
Editor | Iowa Falls Times-Citizen

John Goossen was a newspaperman through and through, having built a 40-year career at publications in Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa. But the Times Citizen Communications general manager, who died last week at the age of 67, is being remembered not just for his contributions to the media industry, but for his empowering leadership, unwavering devotion and willingness to help, whether that was as a mentor, volunteer, outdoorsman, friend or father.

For the last 11 years of his life, Goossen, a native of Nebraska, led Times Citizen Communications. He oversaw operations of the company's local media products — the Iowa Falls Times-Citizen, the Ackley World Journal, The Advertiser and KIFG Radio — as well as a printing press and a farm publication advertising sales team. His arrival in Iowa Falls in 2010 followed a three-year stint as publisher of the Ames (Iowa) Tribune. At the Times Citizen, Goossen guided the company through an era of great success and difficult challenges.

"When John came from Ames to Iowa Falls, we had instant chemistry — as a company, as a newspaper team, as a community and, most especially, as a friend," Times Citizen President and Publisher Mark Hamilton said. "John's Midwestern roots made for a unique partnership."

Under Goossen's leadership, the local newspapers won dozens of state and national awards, and the company grew its presence in the farm publication world, expanding into new U.S. states and digital products. He also guided Times Citizen Communications through difficult times, leading the response to a 2019 ransomware attack on the company, and more recently, responding to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

But John Goossen's leadership went beyond Iowa Falls. He was an active member of the Iowa Newspaper Association and Foundation, serving on the Foundation board for eight years, including a one-year stint as its president. He frequently helped with the organization's leadership training institute, speaking with up-and-coming professionals about the ins and outs of the business. In 2012, he received

the association's most prestigious honor: the Master Editor-Publisher award.

"Any time we needed help, John said yes," INA Executive Director Susan Patterson Plank said. "It could be something as small as handing out plaques at the convention or helping a colleague with an issue. He was truly one of those people that anybody, if they needed something, they just asked him."

At each stop of his career, Goossen gave of his time to civic organizations. In Iowa Falls, he was a member of the Rotary Club and served on the Iowa Falls Area Development Corporation board. He also made time to mentor students in the Iowa Falls schools. He met weekly with the students, often over his lunch hour. And he kept up the relationships, continuing his weekly meetings and special outings even as the kids grew up and changed schools.

"He was so good with them, so patient," said Nikki Allen, a success coach at Rock Run Elementary School and coordinator of the district's mentoring program. "The connection that he formed with those kids stood out to me. He was willing to stay with a child until they no longer wanted him."

When he wasn't working or volunteering, Goossen's favorite place to be was outside, whether that was time spent with his three grandchildren, or his favorite pastime: hunting and training dogs. Goossen was a member and officer in the Mid Iowa Retriever Club and had been an avid hunter, dog owner and trainer for most of his life. In 2016, he spoke with the Times Citizen for a story about his trip to Vermont to compete in the National Amateur Retriever Championships.

The people who knew John Goossen speak about the care he showed for coworkers, friends and family. He was attentive, interested and supportive.

"When you were talking to John, he was leaning in and listening. I mean that in a physical way and in an emotional way," Patterson Plank said. "He focused on connecting with the person who was in front of him. He was authentic."

"He was a professional," Hamilton said. "He was a mentor to everybody. I will truly miss him."

Goossen is survived by his wife, Tracy, who lives in Iowa Falls, the couple's three adult daughters, and three grandchildren. Funeral services are pending.



PHOTO COURTESY IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

John Goossen, pictured above at an Iowa Newspaper Association convention in 2017, had been general manager of Times Citizen Communications in Iowa Falls since 2010. He died of a sudden illness Sept. 29, 2021, at the age of 67.

Longtime journalist Tom Graham dies at 71

BY JEAN F. MOON & LEN LAZARICK
MarylandReporter.com

Tom Graham, former executive editor of the once vaunted Patuxent Publishing newspapers and a longtime editor of the health section at The Washington Post, died early Wednesday, June 22, at his home in Columbia, Maryland.

He was attended by his wife, Mary Kay Sigaty, a former member of the Howard County Council, and their children, Eileen and Bridget Graham. It was the couple's 48th wedding anniversary. Tom had just returned from a recent hospitalization for issues related to his five-year bout with cancer.

Tom was born April 7, 1951, in New York City, the second of four children to John and Mary Graham. He spent his childhood in New York City, where he grew up to be a devoted

Yankees fan and attended the elite Regis High School, the free-tuition Jesuit school often ranked as the best Catholic high school in the country, with well-known graduates such as Dr. Anthony Fauci.

A philosophy major at Boston College, Tom met his wife and many lifelong friends while still a student. Years later, he would recall a campus protest that featured Mary Kay, a pretty activist with a bullhorn. Upon graduation, the couple married. By then, Tom had found his calling as well as his life partner.

A precocious journalist, Tom left Boston for a work-study position at the Howard County Times in 1971, where he distinguished himself as a reporter, attracting the attention of then Columbia Flier editor Jean F. Moon, who persuaded him to join the fledgling paper as its news editor in

1973.

Over the next 24 years, he reigned over an ever expanding editorial operation of 13 community newspapers in Howard and Baltimore counties. Under his leadership, what became the Patuxent Publishing Co. papers were perennial "Best in Show" awardees in the annual Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association contests. Tom later served as vice president of the MDDC Board of Directors.

"In those days, the Flier was truly a great paper. I remember waiting every Thursday for the Flier to be delivered and the pleasure of reading it from cover to cover," recalled Pat Kennedy, former president of Columbia Association.

PARIS AND THE POST

In 1983, Tom was selected as the

first recipient of the John Hay Whitney Fellowship at the International Herald Tribune, then a daily English-language newspaper published in Paris for readers living abroad. Tom, Mary Kay and new born daughter, Eileen, spent a year in Paris with Tom on the copy desk, editing text from around the globe. The young family, living in an apartment provided along with the job, earned a lifetime of memories, traveling throughout Europe before returning home to Columbia. Daughter Bridget was born in 1986.

Among reporters in the region, Tom was known for his steady, thoughtful and rigorous professionalism. "He was the best editor I ever had," said award-winning novelist Carrie Brown, one of Tom's writers in the '80s.

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GRAHAM:

For the past two decades, Tom was associated with the World Computer Exchange, which connects youth around the world to digital resources

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"Tom is the reason I moved to Columbia from Boston where I had met him at BC," said Len Lazarick, founding editor of MarylandReporter.com and a managing editor under Tom at Patuxent Publishing. "Tom was a laid-back editor who wrote amazingly clean copy and knew how to cut the fat out of a story. I can't remember him ever raising his voice - about anything."

"I was hired by Tom in the early to mid-1980s and was privileged to be part of PPC's growth in Baltimore County. Tom's steady leadership was infectious, giving wobbly journalists like myself confidence to take on more roles," said Cynthia Prairie, MarylandReporter.com's Roundup editor.

In 1998, Tom left Patuxent and took a position as a multiplatform editor for The Washington Post, where he remained until retirement in 2019.

Freed of concerns about being a subject of news while her husband was running the local newspaper, Mary Kay, who had become a well-known craftsperson and artisan, then embarked upon a career that included serving three terms on the Howard County Council from 2006-2018.

For the past two decades, Tom was associated with the World Computer Exchange, which connects youth around the world to digital resources; it was founded by his college friend, Tim Anderson. Tom served as chairman of the WCE board and later as the WCE International Advisory Council Chairman. For years, he personally collected discarded computers from friends for repair and recycling by WCE.

Upon retirement, Tom and Mary Kay bought a truck and fifth wheel trailer and began a series of adventures, traveling across the United States to visit friends and places and events of interest, always staying in

campgrounds along the way. Among the highpoints were visits to Florida and a long trip to Chicago. Maine was a favorite destination for family vacations.

His family wants Tom to be remembered for being a supportive husband and father, a loyal friend, and an accomplished journalist who left a mark on his profession and the many editors and writers he mentored.

In addition to his wife of 48 years, Tom is survived by daughters Eileen Graham of Washington, D.C., and Bridget Graham (Ryan Bixby) of Federalsburg, Md. He is also survived by brothers Monsignor John Graham and Kevin Graham of the Bronx, and sister Mary Cronk (George Cronk), nephews Brendan Cronk (Paulina Cronk) and Kevin Cronk of New Jersey. He was predeceased by parents John and Mary Graham.

A Celebration of Tom Graham's life is being planned for later this summer.

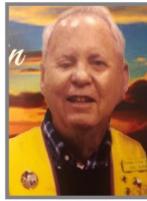
Cary Griffin, 1943-2022

Cary Lee Griffin (78) of Forney, Texas, went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on August 2, 2022, at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas with his wife, Judy, by his side.

Cary was born October 13, 1943, in Glendale, California, to Art Griffin and Gene (Crozier) Griffin. Because he was born with glaucoma, at 3 months old, Cary had one eye removed. The doctors thought removing the affected (left) eye would prevent the spread of glaucoma to the other eye, but despite their efforts, the remaining eye developed the disease. Cary never had dual eyesight. Despite the eyesight limitations and the other health challenges he faced, Cary lived his life to its fullest.

Cary attended the University of Missouri Journalism School and was initiated into the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity on February 3, 1963. He later graduated from UCLA with a bachelor of arts in English.

He met the love of his life, Judy Price, while attending the University of Missouri, and they married on August 22, 1970, in Rockwall, Texas. They enjoyed nearly 52 years as husband and wife. In one of their final conversations, Judy told



Griffin

Cary that she did not think they had more than 10 arguments during their marriage. Cary replied, "No, Judy, I don't think there were more than five." The two of them were inseparable.

After Cary and Judy married, they moved to Forney in August 1972 and bought the Forney Messenger in October of that year. Their first issue was printed on October 15, 1972. Throughout the years, Cary and Judy covered the community and schools for the newspaper to keep the public informed of numerous events and meetings. "Hoppin' Around with Cary" was Cary's weekly editorial column where people could read about his thoughts on a variety of topics.

Under their leadership, the Forney Messenger provided scholarships for graduating seniors and supported the Forney Education Foundation.

Cary and Judy retired February 1, 2018. They sold the Forney Messenger after Cary's eyesight diminished and other health concerns made it difficult for them to continue their work. They missed working at the newspaper and regularly seeing people with whom they developed relationships over the years.

Cary and Judy loved to travel. Their membership in the National Newspaper Association gave them the opportunity to visit Cuba twice before most

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GRIFFIN: He shared stories and sang

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Americans were allowed to visit the country. They also traveled to Spain and other countries with NNA. They attended many newspaper conventions in cities throughout the U.S. They were also members of the Texas Press Association.

Cary's love of children was well known. For more than 25 years, he spent many hours volunteering with the pre-K students at the local elementary schools. He volunteered for many years as a Girl Scout leader of the Forney Troop. He shared stories and sang songs with the children, even when his health was not good. His work with children brought him great joy.

For Cary, reading books was a source of enjoyment. His favorite topics included religion, politics, science fiction and history. After losing his eyesight, Cary was able to listen to audio books from the Texas State Library for the Blind's Talking Books Program. Cary was very nostalgic in that he collected recordings of his favorite television shows, movies and music from his childhood and young adulthood.

Cary served as director of the Forney Education Foundation and was the all-community member representative for the Forney ISD District

Education Improvement Council. He was a charter member of the Forney Lion's Club. Cary was named Citizen of the Year in 1983. He and Judy were named Citizens of the Year in 2019. In 2019, Cary and Judy were named lifetime members of the Forney Chamber of Commerce. Cary and Judy both served as directors of the Chamber of Commerce and were members of the Forney Preservation League.

When Cary was diagnosed with lung cancer, it was kept stable for a long time using chemo pills. In his last few months, his treatment was changed to using conventional chemotherapy. The last dose weakened Cary to the point he could not fight the onset of pneumonia. He was placed in hospice care August 1 and passed away the next day.

Cary was preceded in death by his parents, Art and Gene Griffin, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, W.J. and Cora Price of Rockwall, Texas.

Cary is survived by his wife, Judy, and his sister, Leslie Griffin Lawson of Montana. He leaves behind many friends who will cherish his memory.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Cure Glaucoma Foundation, 10740 N. Central Expressway, Suite 300, Dallas, TX 75231 or First Presbyterian Church of Forney, P.O. Box 98, Forney, TX 75126.

Bob Grimm, 1928-2021

Bob Grimm, 92, of Paducah, passed away Friday, Nov. 12, 2021, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center. Bob was born on Dec. 20, 1928, to the late George & Cynthia Rawlinson Grimm. Bob attended Tilghman High School and was a longtime member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

He retired from The Paducah Sun after 43 years of service, a period that included him serving District 1 on the Kentucky Press Association Board of Directors in the 1980s. He

was an avid golfer, having played in the local tournaments many times. He was a member of the Paducah Country Club for many years. Bob served on the McCracken County Fiscal Court. Bob loved roller skating and wanted his children to learn to



Grimm

skate.

Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Aimee Warner Grimm; two daughters, Jimma Grimm of Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, and Jamiee (Richard) Damato of California; one son, Thomas (Kristen) Grimm, of Nashville, Tennessee; five grandchildren, Givonne (Stacie) Damato, Caroline Grimm, Sarah Grimm, Thomas Warner Grimm II and Williams Grimm; one great-grandson, Chase; several nieces and nephews. Preceding in death were his

parents; one son, Ben Grimm; son-in-law, John Henderson; one sister, Mary Katherine Camady; three brothers, James Grimm, George Harold Grimm and Bill Grimm.

Services were held Nov. 18, 2021, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Jamie Broome officiating. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

Expression of sympathy may be made to Immanuel Baptist Church, 3465 Buckner Lane, Paducah, KY 42001.

Joe Johnson, 1930-2022

OPA | The Oklahoma Publisher

Joe A. Johnson, the first publisher of the Vian Tenkiller News, died June 7, 2022. He was 91.

Johnson was born November 2, 1930, in Spiro. He attended the University of Oklahoma, graduating with a degree in journalism. While at OU, he married his high school sweetheart, Martha Ellen Gentry, and became a father to twins.

The Johnsons moved to Heavener in 1950, where Joe became a partner with his brother, Jack, in the Heavener Ledger. The newspaper prospered for the next two decades. Joe was also co-owner of the Waldron News and Vian Tenkiller News.

Johnston served in the Oklahoma legislature for 14 years as both a representative and then a senator. After leaving the Senate, he went to work in the Department of Corrections, guiding inmates by leading a class called New

Directions, where he encouraged inmates in their transition to becoming productive citizens.

Johnson did all this while being publisher of the Vian Tenkiller News, visiting the inmates during the day and then coming back to Vian on Tuesday night to finish the newspaper for press.

Joe and Martha enjoyed 41 years of marriage until her death in 1991. He then married Peggy Sue Huie on Jan. 1, 1993.

Johnson is survived by four children, four stepchildren and their families. His children include Joe Johnson of Seattle; Ann Johnson Mead of Purcell; Lee Johnson Lewallen of El Dorado, Kansas; and Bill Johnson of McCurtain. His stepchildren are Cindy Huie Miller of Oklahoma City; Bob "Tooter" Huie of Hontubby; Mark Huie of Zoe; and Cody Huie of Heavener.

His family also includes many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Michael Keever had great passion for newspapers, TV and his family

TROY, Michigan – Michael Keever, the longtime senior vice president and chief marketing officer of NTVB Media, died Dec. 11 from complications related to COVID-19. He was 55.

Known throughout the industry as a knowledgeable and affable colleague, Keever established and grew relationships with hundreds of newspapers throughout the country over the last two decades. He was a relentless champion of providing television entertainment content and services to newspapers to satisfy their subscribers, including TV Weekly.

Keever was a fixture and featured speaker at numerous national and state newspaper events, sharing his expertise with publishers, editors, advertising executives and circulation personnel. He also made time to enjoy sports and entertainment

outings with clients and colleagues, developing many friendships along the way.

"Michael was a great guy and always took care of Hearst and the Times Union," said Todd Peterson, vice president of consumer revenue for Hearst Newspapers. "He constantly made time for us. It was a great relationship, not just professionally but personally, for those he worked with here."

Chris Blaser, now vice president of audience and circulation for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, met Keever more than 10 years ago when Keever came to present to the San Francisco Chronicle.

"He made his pitch with that high-energy, passion and positive style that he became known for throughout the industry," Blaser re-



Keever

called. "Our paths crossed frequently over the subsequent years, and we became close. Michael cared deeply for others, was kind and considerate. He spoke of his family frequently and clearly treasured getting

home to spend time with them. Michael's gregarious nature, candor and humor helped him develop a second 'family' of industry colleagues and peers who respected and appreciated him. He was a good man, a consummate professional and a great friend. He will be missed."

In addition to NTVB Media, Keever's career included stints at Gan-

nett's Wisconsin newspapers and Portland Newspapers. He also was president of TV Publication Services and TV Data Advertising Network.

Those who knew Keever also appreciated his love and devotion to wife, Jeannie, and to his three children, Kathryn, Whitney, and Jack. His weekends were frequently spent driving his kids to their various sporting and recreational events in Michigan and other parts of the country.

"Michael was an incredibly talented guy who loved the magazine and newspaper business," said NTVB Media President Andy DeAngelis. "He also was a wonderful family man and colleague. Michael will be greatly missed by those who knew him, and his sense of purpose and optimism will continue to inspire us in the years ahead."

Jack Knowles, former owner of Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise, dies at 85

Wisconsin Newspaper Association

John “Jack” Knowles, former owner of the Hillsboro (Wisconsin) Sentry-Enterprise, died May 1, 2022, following a battle with vascular dementia. He was 85.

Knowles was born on March 20, 1942, in Chicago to Bill and Evelyn Knowles. He spent the first 30 years of his journalism career at the Chicago Tribune, starting as a copy boy at 18 years old and working up to editor of the foreign news desk. He left the newspaper in 1989, moving his young family to a small farming community in Wisconsin and purchasing the Sentry-Enterprise. During his time as editor and publisher of



Knowles

the newspaper, he was honored with many awards in writing, publishing, photography and editing from the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.

Knowles sold the newspaper to Morris Newspaper Corporation of Wisconsin in 2004.

A celebration of life was held on Thursday, June 16, followed by a visitation and a funeral service at the Picha Funeral Home in Hillsboro, Wisconsin.

Thomas G. Larson, former owner and publisher of the Osceola Sun, dies at 86

Thomas G. Larson of Minong, Wisconsin, former owner and publisher of The Osceola (Wisconsin) Sun, died April 12, 2022. He was 86.

Larson was born Sept. 25, 1935, to Gladys and Ted Larson in Kasson, Minnesota. He was baptized and confirmed at West St. Olaf Church. He grew up in Kasson and graduated from high school in 1953. He married his wife, Patricia, on June 4, 1960. The Larsons had five children.

In 1963, Larson took a job with the Morris (Minnesota) Sun. In 1969, the family moved to Lowry, Minnesota,



Larson

where he worked for Quinco Press. In 1974, they purchased The Osceola Sun, which they owned for 18 years. He was a member of the National Newspaper Association and Wisconsin Newspaper Association.

A Celebration of Life is planned from noon to 4 p.m. on June 12 at the St. Croix ArtBarn, Osceola.

Mike Mathes, longtime Kiel publisher and WNA past president, dies at 68

Michael E. "Mike" Mathes, past president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and former longtime publisher of the (Kiel) Tri-County News, died Friday, Oct. 1, following a brief battle with brain cancer. He was 68.

Born Sept. 1, 1953, in Sheboygan, Mathes was the oldest child of Earl and Betty (Wendling) Mathes. He graduated in 1971 from Kiel High School and earned his bachelor's degree from UW-La Crosse in 1975.

In 1980, Mike started at the Kiel Record — now the Tri-County News — where his father, Earl A. Mathes, had served as editor and publisher since 1962. Mike took over as publisher when Earl retired in 1986,



Mathes

running the paper alongside his brother, Joe.

Mike served as publisher for more than 30 years until selling the newspaper in September 2019 to O'Rourke Media Group. Since the sale, Joe has served as general manager of O'Rourke's Wisconsin Media Group.

During his time as publisher, Mike was an active member of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. He served as WNA president in 1996

and was the longtime master of ceremonies of the annual WNA Trees Retreat in Eagle River.

In addition to his involvement with the newspaper industry, Mike was also a church and community leader, sports enthusiast, coach and musician.

Visitation was held Oct. 7 at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Kiel. A memorial service followed. The family had requested that all those attending wear a mask.

News Tribune general manager dies unexpectedly

BY JOE GAMM

Reporter | News Tribune (Jefferson City, Missouri)

David Meadows would walk through the Jefferson City News Tribune newsroom every few hours during the work day. A tall man, it seemed his long legs carried him through in just a few strides. But, occasionally, Meadows would stop and chat with reporters, sharing his sense of humor and self-deprecation.

For instance, reporters always seemed to know it was about lunchtime when they smelled burnt popcorn from his nearby office. He took their ribbing courteously.

It didn't seem like he'd been part of the newsroom long before he was gone. Meadows, who was 58, died May 11, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Dianna, and their two sons, Connor and Garrett.

Nat Lea IV, president and chief executive officer of WEHCO Media, owners of Central Missouri Newspapers Inc., said of Meadows: "David was a fine person and a great leader;



Meadows

he will be missed. I was shocked to hear of his passing. Certainly my thoughts today have been with his family and our co-workers in the Jefferson City operation."

Mark Lane, president of WEHCO Newspaper Division, added Thursday: "Mr. Meadows

was an amazing leader who cared deeply for the News Tribune, Fulton Sun, California Democrat and all other businesses associated with the Central Missouri Newspapers Company. It was my honor to have the opportunity to work with such a talented professional," Lane said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the Meadows family."

Meadows had been general manager at the Jefferson City News Tribune (and the Fulton Sun, California Democrat, HER Magazine and the Central Missouri Newspapers'

commercial printing facility) for about 2½ years, having been selected for the job in December 2019, about two months before the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. Many in the newsroom had barely gotten to know him before they were told to work from home. When reporters returned to the office in March 2021, he was a constant source of encouragement.

News Tribune Managing Editor Gary Castor said Meadows had served a variety of roles during his career in newspapers. He had been in production, which allowed him to "talk the talk" with staff in press rooms and mail rooms. However, he also served many years as a publisher/editor and had a clear understanding of news and what it tries to do.

He had more than 30 years' experience in newspapers before he came to Jefferson City — 16 of which came as a general manager or publisher. His most recent position before joining CMNI was as a publisher with Paxton Media Group in Russellville, Arkansas. He had worked with Gan-

nett and Morris Communications.

Castor described Meadows as also being an astute businessman, whose stops in his career gave him broad perspectives on the industry. "The man was exceptional. He was a great boss, and frankly, a great friend," Castor said. "What always struck me was he had a kindness and a gentleness. He would listen well. What I appreciated about him most was (that) he respected what we are trying to do in the newsroom, and he gave us as much support and encouragement as possible."

Castor said he and Meadows also connected as fathers of young adults who had left the nest or were on their way out of it.

Meadows was a funny, humble man who lived his faith as a Christian, Castor said. "He had the ability to talk about the small elements of life to the big elements of life," Castor said. "He wanted to know the people he was working with beyond what they did."

SEE MEADOWS, PAGE 23

MEADOWS: Meadows could often be heard laughing with reporters and designers

FROM PAGE 22

He wanted to know what their lives were like. Recently, when he saw a new reporter on the sports side, Meadows privately asked Castor to remind him of the young man's name. He wanted to reach out to the reporter to connect with him. "He wanted to get to know the guy. That was just him," Castor said.

When he joined CMNI, his new team welcomed him as a leader with a strong understanding of the news business and a passion for the news industry. He praised the news foundation in Jefferson City for its ties and collaborations within the community. Meadows said he was eager to reach out to the community alongside Castor to strengthen those connections.

Yet, Meadows could often be heard laughing with reporters and designers.

During Meadows' time at Central Missouri Newspapers, reporter Jeff Haldiman discussed various topics with him — including old rock bands. They bonded over Head East, REO Speedwagon, Styx and other classic rock bands from the '70s.

Even during the shutdown, Meadows was a positive influence. "He was a glass-half-full type of guy," Haldiman said.

Chief photographer Julie Smith, who has an office next to Meadows' office, said she could hear him speaking — not singing — lyrics from REO Speedwagon songs. Meadows would say a line, then Smith would respond with the next line.

He'd stick his head in and say hello to her.

Smith said the first time she interacted with Meadows really occurred in 2021 when Smith received recognition for 30 years at the Jefferson City News Tribune. A colleague went into Smith's office and strung it with banners recognizing 30.

"I guess he spent a couple of days trying to figure out who was 30," Smith said. "I know you're not 30," he told me. I told him I've been here 30 years." Smith said she kept forgetting to bring a step stool in so she could reach up and take the banners down. He just reached up and took them down one day.

Meadows would walk to her office and let Julie know he liked a certain picture. And he was "pretty excited"

when in 2021 she entered the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame. For the first several days afterward, he'd stick his head in and say, "Hall of Fame — how does that feel?"

Through his personality, Meadows created connections with staff at the newspaper. However, he also brought a different sense of leadership at the newspaper. Before Meadows' arrival, there had been a long-time vacuum on the business side, Haldiman said. He added that WEHCO Media realized when it pursued him for the job that Meadows would strengthen the business side and was excited when he arrived in Jefferson City.

At the time of Meadows' hire, Lane said the new general manager really knew what he was doing and could help the WEHCO team. And he did.

During a staff meeting at the News Tribune on Thursday afternoon, Lane said Meadows had exceeded expectations and had somehow created growth during the pandemic. Lane mused he had swung and missed on some previous hires, but Meadows was different.

"I finally got it right," Lane said, "didn't I?"

Longtime Green Valley News publisher Newell dies

Green Valley News, Green Valley, Arizona

Frank Newell, who worked in newspapers for 56 years and was the publisher of the Green Valley (Arizona) News for the last 12 years, died March 21 in Bellevue, Washington. He was 97.

Newell loved a good story. He could tell one, too.

When he and his wife, Susanne, celebrated their 60th anniversary in 2007, he shared this one.

"I was in my second year at Willamette University (Oregon), having enrolled on return from WWII," he told a gathering in Green Valley. "I was also working part time at the Capital Journal, Salem's afternoon daily newspaper. Susanne was manager of the student union, known as the Bearcat Cavern."

"The wedding was Friday evening," he continued. "We planned a weekend at the Oregon Beach, only I didn't have a car. As we walked down the church steps, I was desperate and thinking, we will just walk through the campus



Newell

to our apartment, and nobody will know."

"We turned down the street and there at the curb was a brand new 1947 Ford sedan with Mark Hatfield holding up the keys," with orders to return

it to the local Ford dealership on Monday morning.

Hatfield — who knew Susanne from high school and college and was Frank's fraternity brother — would go on to become Oregon's governor and a longtime U.S. senator. They remained close for a lifetime.

Frank and Susanne were married 67 years, until her death in 2015.

"Frank was a traditionalist with rock solid principles," said Tom Lee, publisher and group manager for Wick Communications. "People should show up on time. People should complete their work. He

was supportive of his staff and engaged in his community."

Newell, who worked for Wick Communications — parent company of the Green Valley News — since 1982, was known for his business acumen and high standards.

When he retired in 2003, the newspaper called Newell, "A pillar of ethics and strong advocate for fairness and accuracy in an era too much dominated by greed, sensationalism and self-interest."

Pam Mox, who became publisher after Newell retired in 2003, called him "a bright, tenacious visionary who achieved much recognition for his work as a newspaper publisher." "He was passionate about accessible community news and the community of Green Valley," she said. "Many will continue to celebrate his contributions and memories."

Newell grew up as a poor farm kid in rural Nebraska during the days of drought and the Depression; he attended a country school with just four students in his class.

He enlisted in the Air Force and served in the Pacific Theater as a crewman on a B-24 bomber; a radio operator, aerial gunner and aerial photographer. After the war, he used the G.I. Bill and graduated from Willamette University in 1949.

Newell was publisher of more than a dozen newspapers around the country and was known for turning around failing properties and strengthening the communities where he lived.

At his retirement dinner in 2003, Wick Communications owner Robert Wick said that of all the company's publishers, "he was the one most constantly concerned about his employees and giving them a better place. If we had 10 Frank Newells, we'd be the best newspaper company in the world."

Newell got the last word at his retirement party and chose to share the words of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, exhorting the audience to "not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

Mike Parta leaves a lasting legacy

Former local newspaper owner and NNA past president passes away at 74

BY REBECCA MITCHELL AND C.S. HAGEN
Forum News Service

If you're reading this article, you have Mike Parta to thank.

Throughout his decades-long career as a local newspaper owner, Parta showed a true passion for good journalism and an equally true love for his community, and that brought strength and relevance to the papers he owned.

Parta died on Jan. 29 at the age of 74 after a long battle with cancer.

During the course of his career, he owned the New York Mills Herald, Perham Enterprise-Bulletin, Wade-

na Pioneer Journal, Staples World, Contact Shopper, Wadena Intercom and the Finnish language newspaper Amerikan Uutiset.

His first paper was the Herald, which he took over from his father who had taken it over from his father, making Parta a third-generation family owner. From there, Parta's interest in newspapers just grew.

"He thought community newspapers were the heart and soul of any community," said his daughter, Abby Parta.

Known for his optimism, Parta maintained a positive attitude even throughout his nine-year cancer journey.

"His glass was always half full — always half full no matter what just



Parta

happened to him," said Chuck Johnson, a longtime friend and previous editor of the newspaper in Perham.

Johnson said Parta carried the philosophy of community-building with him from New York Mills to Perham after he bought the paper there in 1978.

"They made the commitment that they wanted Perham's news to be covered," Johnson said, referring to Parta and his wife, Jan, who ran the papers together, along with their children, for over 30 years.

He said Parta was an active participant in Perham's progressive leadership.

"Deep in his soul, he was a community builder," Johnson said, and the newspaper served as a tool to support the community.

One of Parta's biggest passions was for education, as he believed in the strength of schools as an "important foundation" to any community, according to Kevin Cederstrom. Cederstrom worked as a reporter and

editor at the New York Mills Herald, which eventually combined with the Perham Enterprise-Bulletin.

"He stressed the newspaper's commitment and obligation, (the) responsibility of being a leader in the community," Cederstrom said.

When the Perham School District faced bond issues in the 1980s, Parta partnered with a group of community members to help pass a referendum to renovate the high school and build Heart of the Lakes Elementary School. His wife also served as a school board member for over 20 years.

"The newspaper took a real active role in being an advocate (for the schools)," said Johnson. "It probably wasn't neutral journalism; it was advocate journalism."

As a new journalist working with Parta, Cederstrom remembers many lessons on balancing personal

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PARTA: Publisher highlighted community with 'refrigerator journalism'

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conflicts while covering local stories. He also fondly remembers Parta as a source of encouragement and support as he built his career.

"He had a great way of teaching and mentoring without being overly critical as a publisher," Cederstrom said. "He was committed to those principles of community journalism, and he had a great newspaper career."

In the "wonderful, rewarding, complex and often frustrating world

of journalism," as Cederstrom described, Parta truly cared for the community.

He was also "always a leader" in the communities he served, Cederstrom said. Parta was a member of the New York Mills City Council for about 30 years, for example, and was a director of the Perham Rotary Foundation, among other involvements.

"The entire New York Mills community will miss the impact that Mike has had on us over the decades," the Civic and Commerce Association shared in a Facebook post. "He leaves behind a lasting legacy that has touched countless lives and helped change the footprint of our town and region. We are sending thoughts and prayers to his family during this difficult time."

Beyond his local community involvements, Parta was a past president of the Minnesota Newspaper Association, National Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association Foundation.

"He was a small town guy, but he took the platform he was given to not only grow his town, but do things for

community journalism in his state, even to the national level," said Jennifer Parta, his daughter.

"Mike was one of a disappearing breed of small town newspaper publishers. He was totally vested in the idea that communities needed an involved newspaper, and he and his wife, Jan, proved that for over 50 years. He not only reported the news of the community; they were often deeply involved in making that news," said Dennis Winskowski, a longtime friend and former lakes area newspaper publisher. "Mike will be missed by all who knew him."

From stories on basketball games to Cub Scouts, Parta highlighted the community through what he called "refrigerator journalism," said Melissa Swenson, publisher of the Perham Focus, Wadena Pioneer Journal and Detroit Lakes Tribune. She worked with Parta for several years.

"He said that a small-town paper was about giving people things to clip out and hang on their refrigerators," Swenson explained. "I respected Mike and learned a lot from him. He loved being from New York Mills,

his family, living on the lake and newspapers."

After Parta retired from his journalism career, he sailed into another career as the owner of Hoot's Sports (now Ray's Sport & Marine). He was a lover of lake life and was a lake home resident himself, on Big Pine Lake. He enjoyed pontooning and being out on the water with good friends, good drinks and good food, Cederstrom said.

Right up until the end of his life, Parta continued to value the importance of newspapers. Johnson said that as Parta went through his final cancer treatments, he was still hoping to share a message at this year's Minnesota Newspaper Convention about the journalistic and financial challenges that newspapers face. He passed away on the Saturday of the convention.

Parta's son, Chris Parta, said his dad told him "on Friday, the last time I spoke with him, the day before he passed away, (that) he was starting to write thoughts down for a project about the history and development of community newspapers."



CONTRIBUTED / PARTA FAMILY / FORUM NEWS SERVICE

Michael Parta as a child, working at the New York Mills Herald.

Mary Elizabeth ‘Maribeth’ Ford Pate dies at 93

OPA | The Oklahoma Publisher

Mary Elizabeth (Maribeth) Ford Pate, who owned The Madill (Oklahoma) Record along with her husband, Jim, for more than 60 years, died June 7, 2022. She was 93.

Pate was born in Sentinel, Oklahoma, on April 22, 1929. She spent her early childhood years in western Oklahoma before her parents relocated the family of seven to Norman in 1940.

She received a business degree from The University of Oklahoma in 1951. Pate worked with student publications, including The OU Daily at the

University of Oklahoma, where she met her husband, Jim. They married on June 10, 1954.

Jointly, Jim and Maribeth oversaw publication of The Madill Record, a Pate family owned newspaper from 1929 until 1994. Maribeth published a column, Maribeth’s Meanderings, for many years.

She is survived by three children: Martha Jean (Marti) Gallardo and Laura Jane (Lauri) Kimball, both of Dallas, and William Clay (Bill) Pate of Houston; nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Thomas J. Phillips, 1932-2022

Thomas J. "Tom" Phillips, Jr., 90, of Pana Illinois, passed away Monday, August 29, 2022, in Heritage Health — Pana. He was born March 20, 1932, in Pana to the late Thomas J. Phillips, Sr. and Della (Comerford) Phillips. Tom married Doris Elizabeth Christner on June 16, 1956, in the Rectory of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Pana. She preceded him in death on February 20, 2016.

Tom is a graduate of Pana High School, Class of 1951. He attended Eastern Illinois University for a year before enlisting in the U. S. Navy. He then served on active duty for four years and retired from the reserves as Chief Petty Officer after 32 years of service. At age 23, he began his career with the Pana News-Palladium in 1956.

Journalism was Tom's life and hobby! He got an early start to his career as co-editor of the Pana High School newspaper, the "Pana Pacer," his senior year. He honed his craft while serving in the Navy, eventually being assigned to the Public Information Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet.

Along with his wife, Doris, they were the owners and publishers of the Pana News-Palladium for more than 50 years. They were also owners

and publishers of the Nokomis Free Press-Progress, Assumption Golden Prairie News, and the Morrisonville Times.

He is a past president of the Illinois Press Association and The Southern Illinois Editorial Association. He was a member of the National Newspaper Association and was awarded the NNA President's Award for distinguished service to community journalism. He was past vice-president of the Illinois Press Association Foundation and was instrumental in the construction of the IPA's headquarters just south of Springfield.

He was awarded the Illinois Press Association Distinguished Service Award and was inducted into the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Journalism Hall of Fame and was named a Master Editor. He is a past president of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Throughout his career, he was the winner of numerous writing awards at both the state and national levels.

Through the influence of his Pana newspaper, Tom single-handedly raised nearly \$100,000 to repair the roof and flooring of Kitchell Park's historic Chautauqua Pavilion in the early 2000's and saved Pana's Illinois Central Railroad switching tower with

his individual purchase of the property. He helped fund the Pana Labor Day Parade for many years with his newspaper "Pennies for the Parade" campaign.

Tom was a member of the St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Pana, and 4th Degree Knight with Pana Knights of Columbus Council #896. Tom was the past president of the Pana Lions Club, Pana Chamber of Commerce, and a charter member of the Pana Community Hospital Foundation Board.

He was also a member of the committee which helped to purchase the hospital from the Sisters of Misericorde, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

He was selected as Grand Marshal of the Pana Labor Day Parade in 1997 and was the recipient of the Pana Jaycee's Distinguished Service Award and Pana Elks Lodge 1261 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award. He served as president of the Christian County Elderly Housing Authority and oversaw the construction of Parkway Apartments in Pana. He received the Christian County Economic Development Corporation's Service Award in 2004.

Tom was a member of the Pana Lions Club, Pana American Legion Post, Pana AMVEST Post, Korean War Veterans and Catholic War Veterans.

He served on the Pana Police Pension Board and was secretary of the organization for many years.

He was a Christian County Deputy Coroner for 24 years.

Tom is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth A. "Beth" (David) Bennett, Madison, WI; son-in-law, Tom Latonis, Pana, IL; grandchildren: Alicia Phillips Bennett (Alex) Dingee, Nicole Phillips (Josh) Bonn and Jacob Thomas Latonis.

He has three great-grandchildren: Joshua Dean "JJ." Bonn, Jr., Ellie Nicole Bonn and Archer James Dingee.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his daughters: Cynthia J. "Cindy" Phillips-Latonis and Patricia M. "Trish" Spracklen and infant grandson, Thomas Phillips Latonis.

Visitation for Tom was Friday, September 16, 2022, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Pana.

A Celebration of Life was held, followed by Memorial mass with Rev. Rodney Schwartz officiating.

Private inurnment will be at a later date in Calvary Cemetery, Pana.

Memorials in Tom's honor may be made to the Sacred Heart School and will be accepted by McCracken-Dean Funeral Home who is assisting the family.

Morley Piper, 1925-2022

On Thursday, May 12, 2022, Morley Piper passed away at 97 years young.

Piper devoted more than 60 years of his life to the newspaper industry, including 12 years at the Boston Globe, 45 years as the executive director of the New England Newspaper Association, and 22 years serving as clerk of the Newspaper Association Managers.

He made significant contributions to the industry, providing wise counsel and inspiration to several generations of newspaper staff and executives in New England and across the country.

Piper received many awards for his devotion to the industry, including the prestigious Yankee Quill award, and he was a member of the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame.

“Like so many of you, I had great respect and affection for Morley, and I will miss him and his quick wit,” Linda Conway, executive director, New England Newspaper and Press Association, wrote in an email.

“I reached out to just a few of our mutual friends and asked them to share a thought or two about Morley:



Piper

“Everyone looked to Morley: to learn, to ask, to share, to find,” George Geers, longtime newspaper and publishing executive, said. “He knew everyone and everything. He was the first one to call with news.

‘What do you hear,’

he’d ask. Morley Piper was the first and only executive director of the New England Newspaper Association. When its editorial committee was formed, Bill Breisky of the Cape Cod Times was the named chair. I was on the committee. His strength was finding key people to guide the committees and organizations under NENA’s umbrella — production, advertising, operations, circulation. He had a talented and dedicated crew in the office and in the association for the duration. ...”

Continued online at
<https://bit.ly/3MVO2DU>

Frank Quine, beloved former Merrill assistant dean and development director, dies at 84

COLLEGE PARK, Maryland — Frank Quine, who spent 24 years working at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism after 18 years with the American Press Institute, died Oct. 30 at age 84.

After coming to Merrill in 1988, he served as the college's development director and assistant dean, as well as vice president of the American Journalism Review, which ceased publication in 2015. He retired in 2010 but came out of retirement for six months in 2013 at the request of Dean Lucy Dalglish. During that time, he returned to his previous roles of assistant dean and chief development officer on an interim basis while the search for a new development officer took place.

Quine played a key role in bringing the college a grant for an endowed Knight Chair in 1994 and contributed to securing the gift from Philip Merrill that led to the naming of the college in 2001. In his final four years before his initial retirement, he helped coordinate the fundraising, design, construction and 2010 opening of the \$30 million John S. and James L. Knight Hall, the new home of the college.

Along with his wife, Mary Ellen Doran-Quine, he also sponsored a Merrill scholarship for undergraduate students in need and hosted international Humphrey fellows, a Fulbright exchange program funded by the U.S. State Department.

Quine was a beloved member of

the Merrill community, Dalglish said.

"Frank was Merrill College's No. 1 fan. He was kind, thoughtful and creative," she said. "I knew Frank long before I joined Merrill College. When we suddenly lost a development officer, I turned to Frank to fill in for the interim because I knew he wouldn't let us miss a beat."

Christopher Callahan, former associate dean at Merrill and current president of the University of the Pacific, praised Quine's role in helping the college rise to national prominence.

"Quietly, humbly and always with a smile, Frank Quine helped build the foundation for what is today one of the very best journalism schools in the country," Callahan said. "Working side by side with two great deans — Reese Cleghorn and later Tom Kunkel — Frank played integral behind-the-scenes roles in building bridges to the news industry and critically important donors that helped shape the college."

Before coming to Merrill, Quine was director and CEO of the American Press Institute for eight years (1979-87) after serving as managing director (1977-79) and associate director (1969-77). While at API, which at the time was the U.S. and Canadian newspaper industry's management training and career-development center — he planned and conducted 92 seminars



Quine

for editors, department heads and publishing executives.

Quine previously worked for legendary St. Petersburg Times publisher Nelson Poynter as sports editor and news editor at the St. Petersburg Evening Independent in Florida. He also was a sportswriter for the Jacksonville Journal.

He was the 2014 recipient of the Society of Professional Journalists D.C. Chapter's Distinguished Service Award and the 2013 winner of the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association Distinguished Service Award. He received a Lifetime Service Award from the American Press Institute in 2006. Quine, who grew up in a suburb of Akron, Ohio, also won the 1971 William D. Taylor Award as Kent State University's Journalism Alumnus of the Year.

"Frank was a journalist's journalist — a thorough pro who loved the news business and brought an amazingly positive, cheerful, can-do attitude to everything he did and everyone he met," said Merrill

Professor Emeritus Carl Sessions Stepp. "In his first week on the job, he came into the dining hall one day for lunch, spotted some of us at a table, sat himself down with us, and in that moment became a fast friend forever."

Said Carol Rogers, Merrill professor of the practice emerita: "He was simply one of the best — at what he did and who he was. Merrill College wouldn't be what it is today without his skilled hand and his heart, and those of us who knew him would have missed out on a lot had he not been in our lives."

Quine's survivors include Dr. Mary Ellen Doran-Quine, his wife of 43 years; two children from his first marriage to Beverly Champion, Laura Heinle (Thomas) of Silver Spring, Maryland, and Linda Barry (Chase) of Jacksonville, Florida; a stepson, Sean Kelleher of Winchester, Virginia; two grandsons, William and Theo Heinle of Silver Spring; and stepgrandson Ethan Barry of Jacksonville; two brothers, Thomas and John Quine; and two sisters, Anne Quine and Ellen Hill, all of Ohio.

He was predeceased by son Franklin Quine, stepson Paul Kelleher and brother William Quine.

Friends, family and colleagues were invited to share memories about Quine during a Celebration of Life, held Nov. 30, at Clyde's Willow Creek Farm in Broadlands, Virginia.

'The real deal'

NNA Past President Ken Rhoades remembered as dedicated advocate of Blair, Nebraska, newspaper communities

BY GREG FORBES
Enterprise Publishing Company

Ken Rhoades never shied away from a story. His 60-plus year career saw him cover anything and everything, even if it meant putting himself in harm's way, which he did on several occasions.

One of the long-time Blair newspaper publisher's favorite stories to tell was about the 1953 fire at the Publishing House building that left him with singed hair and burnt legs. Former Enterprise managing editor



SEE **RHOADES**, PAGE 22

RHOADES: Rhoades held almost every title possible at the Enterprise

FROM PAGE 1

Leeanna Ellis interviewed Rhoades about his career in 2019, where he singled out that story as one of the highlights he remembered the most.

"As he took photos, he noticed a door started to bulge before it finally blew open. Ken lost some eyebrow hair and was burned on his legs," she said. "When I asked him if he went to the hospital, he said 'No.' He just kept taking photos.

"Wasn't he concerned for his safety? He just shrugged and smiled at me."

AN OLD-SCHOOL NEWSPAPER MAN

Rhoades, who passed away March 21 at age 90, held almost every title possible at the Enterprise, including publisher emeritus following his retirement. His career saw him serve as the president of the Nebraska Press Association (NPA) Foundation and National Newspaper Association. He amassed a bevy of awards and honors, including an induction into the NPA Hall of Fame and a designation as a Nebraska Master Editor-Publisher in 2000.

In a tribute to Rhoades written for his funeral service, Allen Beermann, former executive director

of the NPA, said Rhoades' career wasn't built on trying to receive accolades and acknowledgment, but rather it was one dedicated to integrity.

"As we reflect on his legacy, we quickly realize that he never did work for recognition; rather, he always did work worthy of recognition," Beermann said. "Ken lived his life like a snowflake, which leaves a mark but never a stain. He was a premier community servant — always serving with highest distinction."

Beermann said Rhoades exemplified the "G" forces of journalism — to be good, grateful, gracious, generous and glad. This allowed him to use his talents in a way that told the news with compassion, understanding and accuracy.

"Ken always kept these 'G' forces in mind as he learned and lived the lessons of history; he was never too proud to cry, too grim to laugh, too sophisticated to enjoy, too hard to repent, too legal to love, too narrow to notice or too proud to pray," Beermann said.

Rhoades garnered his reputation throughout his 60-year newspaper career. He started with the Enterprise when he was just 10 years old, melting lead for the Linotype ma-

chine. He worked as a reporter for the Enterprise when he was in high school and would fill in when needed in the press department while he was attending the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Rhoades eventually purchased the company from his father, J. Hilton Rhoades, in 1978, and it remained a family-focused business with his wife, Virginia, serving as the bookkeeper and the one who would collect the community news items.

Ken and Virginia sold Enterprise Publishing Company to his son, Mark Rhoades, in 1997. Mark currently serves as publisher, and his son, Chris, is the associate publisher.

Ken Rhoades remained involved with the paper as publisher emeritus and kept tabs on news in the area. Ellis said she appreciated Rhoades' guidance and willingness to swing by the office and chat. She said his example is one that remains at the paper.

"Ken was the epitome of an old-school newspaper man," she said. "As a journalist, his experience and knowledge was something to admire. Ken could tell stories of the 'good-old days' and they were fascinating to listen to.

"He was proud of those who car-

ried on his legacy — and not just his family. It was an honor to have Ken tell me I had done a great job on a story or he liked how the newspaper looked. I always valued his opinion."

NO PROUDER PROMOTER OF BLAIR

Rhoades wasn't afraid to tackle tough subjects and take on controversial opinions in his editorials. Blair Mayor Rich Hansen said his approach to journalism was admirable because of his unflappability.

"Kenny wasn't afraid to take on some tough stories once in a while, which is a dangerous thing when the guy sitting across from you is paying your wages as an advertiser," Hansen said. "He was just an old school paper guy."

But Hansen said the stories he wrote and the way he managed the paper were reflections of the pride he had for the community.

"He was always positive about Blair," Hansen said. "There was no prouder promoter of Blair than Ken Rhoades. When he would travel, he would be so proud to talk about Blair and he was proud to be from the Rhoades family."

SEE **BLAIR**, PAGE 23

BLAIR: Rhoades was always good for a joke

FROM PAGE 22

"He was the real deal."

Rhoades' love of Blair was evident in his service to the community. He served on more than 30 civic organizations, donated to various causes in the community and attended countless events.

"He was always promoting Blair and always had a dynamic interest in Blair. He probably received every community service award available here," Hansen said.

Mick Jensen, second cousin to Rhoades and long-time business associate through his work with Great Plains Communication, said Rhoades' connection to the community was inspiring and showed through his tireless work to serve it in any way possible.

"You wonder first of all how he had the energy to do it and how he kept track of everything he needed to," Jensen said. "He was able to be helpful to so many causes and so many committees."

Seeing Rhoades' passion for community service and his desire to promote Blair whenever possible, Jensen added, showed that Blair had an advocate locally, statewide and nationally.

"It gave you a sense of satisfaction and helped you understand someone did care and took the time to be that interested and watch out for the different issues in the community and county," he said.

PARTNERS IN LIFE

Jensen said he and Rhoades remained close until Rhoades' passing Monday. He'd have dinner with Ken and Virginia each Wednesday, and even later in his life, Rhoades was always good for a joke.

"He'd be in a wheel-chair and a couple of times, people would come up and ask him how he was and he'd say, 'I dunno, they haven't told me yet today,'" Jensen said, with a laugh. "He kept a really good attitude and was so grateful for everything that you helped him with."

Jensen said one source of Rhoades' demeanor and love of life was the connection he shared with Virginia. Where one would go, the other would often be, Jensen said.

"He and Virginia were complete partners in life," he said, "and I think a quite a bit of his success is because of that. They say there's always a good woman behind that, and she was supportive of him, and I'm sure that helped him lot."

"As a couple, they were extremely fun to be with and were so caring of other people."

Hansen, too, said he struggled to think of many instances where he saw Rhoades at a ball game or event without Virginia by his side.

"You have to emphasize, they were a pair together," Hansen said. "You seldom saw one without the other, which was refreshing."

Their impact on the community is apparent of virtually every corner in Blair. Jensen said it was Rhoades' undying passion for the community and his demeanor towards life that makes his loss widely felt.

"It's tough to lose a person like that," he said. "He's done so much, been so involved and touched so many people."

"I feel much richer for knowing him."



PROVIDED

Ken Rhoades is pictured here (right) with his wife, Ginny Rhoades.

Rex Rust — finance expert, community leader, athlete — dies at age 52

Rex Dearmont Rust, co-president of Rust Communications, died the evening of Jan. 6 after a yearlong battle with cancer.

Rust, 52, was remembered for his community involvement, leadership, charitable work and positive, energetic personality.

"It has been a difficult year grieving for a brother and sister-in-law as he struggled against cancer," said Jon K. Rust, co-president of Rust Communications and publisher of the Southeast Missourian. "But throughout, as was his character, Rex sought to make other people laugh. His devotion to Sherry and his celebration of friends has always been remarkable, and it was uplifting to see his affection returned to him over these last months in many, many beautiful ways. Thank you to

all who reached out to him — in letters, videos, messages and prayers. It was meaningful. Rex, more so than anything else, was fun to be around, and he will be missed profoundly."

Born Sept. 12, 1969, Rex was the son of Gary and Wendy Kurka Rust and brother of the late Robin Rust, Penny Rochelle (Alan) Terry, Gary Wayne (Suzuyo) Rust II, Holly Rust (Richmond) Payne, Wynn Bradford (Kim) Rust, and Jon Kurka (Victoria) Rust.

In 2005, Rex married Sherry Johnson in a ceremony in Maui, Hawaii.

EDUCATION AND EARLY CAREER

Rex attended Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts and graduated

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SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Rex Rust, co-president of Rust Communications, tosses the ball to his brother, Gary II, during the dedication and open house of Southeast Missouri State University's new Rust Center for Media on Oct. 7, 2016.

RUST: 'Rex is a handsome rascal, with an infectious smile that he uses to make all who he encounters feel very special'

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with honors after being named class president his sophomore, junior and senior years. While there, he displayed an athletic prowess that would become a hallmark. He won the Tom Ashley Award, given to the school's top football player, and was captain of the Academy's football, basketball and baseball teams.

In 1992, he graduated cum laude from Harvard with a degree in economics. He was active in various groups at the university, including the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government, and he also played on the university's baseball team, earning a "Major H" award.

Later, he would spend a semester studying at the London School of Economics.

In 1992, he began work with Smith Barney in New York City. He would go on to work on Wall Street and in private-equity management roles in Chicago and Virginia, focusing on mergers and acquisitions totaling in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

In February 2001, he and Jon K. Rust were named co-presidents of the family company while their father, Gary Rust, continued to serve as chairman of the board of the company that owns more than 40 newspapers in eight states, numerous magazines and websites, as well

as minority ownership of 17 radio stations. Older brother, Gary Rust II, later joined the company as director of its digital agency, rustmedia.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Rex served in a number of positions with civic, community and professional organizations. He served as president of several — Cape Girardeau Chamber of Commerce board, Old Town Cape, Southeast Missouri State University Athletic Boosters board and Inland Press Association board. He served on the boards of American Press Institute, Page Cooperative, state Division of Youth Services, St. Louis Children's Hospital and the Guardians, a group formed to help meet financial needs of families of fallen law enforcement agents and firefighters. A member of St. Louis Young Presidents Association, he also was chairman of the finance committee at La Croix United Methodist Church.

Old Town Cape honored him with its 2020 Charles L. Hutson Visionary Award.

His involvement in another effort was much less heralded.

Stephen N. Limbaugh Jr., senior federal judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, recalled Rex's prison ministry.

"There is an incident some years ago when I called Rex to invite him

to play golf on a Saturday. He said, 'I can't play,' and then he told me why — he was due in Charleston [Missouri] to be part of a Saturday ministry at the prison. As good as he was as a civic leader and businessman — and he was fantastic in those roles — he was an even better Christian."

TRIBUTES

In recent weeks, community leaders and friends have offered various tributes.

A Dec. 28 letter from the City of Cape Girardeau, signed by Mayor Bob Fox and members of the City Council, hailed Rex's civic mindedness: "You have impacted the future of Cape Girardeau and ensured its success for future generations. Your contributions to the community will impact the lives of generations, and for your innovation, the City will forever be grateful."

Peter Kinder, former state lieutenant governor and state senator, honored him at a Jan. 5 meeting of Cape Girardeau Noon Lions Club, of which Rex was a member. He praised his positive example.

"Thank you for your gift of encouragement. Thank you for your dry sense of humor. Thank you for joining us here at Lions," he said.

John Mehner, former president of Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce, said Rex had a dynamic

personality.

"I've had the pleasure of working with Rex on several projects and in several organizations. He is a big personality and fun to be around. He may break out into song or he may pause and lead a prayer. Rex and Sherry did many things behind the scenes to help people in this community. I miss Rex tremendously," he said.

John Thompson, interim executive director, Cape Area MAGNET, spoke about his friend's ability to connect with people.

"Rex is a handsome rascal, with an infectious smile that he uses to make all who he encounters feel very special. Truly a gift," he noted. "And his humor? Well, let's just say that Rodney Dangerfield doesn't have anything over Rex."

Liz Haynes, director of Old Town Cape, pointed to Rex's community service but said his faith was inspiring.

"Rex's faith in God is absolutely astounding. To be faced with the battle he has had and to remain steadfast in his belief in God has been such an inspiration to me," she said. "I've so admired Rex and Sherry's deep-seated love for one another. What a remarkable union between two extraordinary individuals who are truly the loves of each other's lives! I am forever grateful to have crossed paths with Rex."

Former Observer publisher Mike Ryan passes

BY GARY HERRON
Staff Writer | Observer

Like most people aged 30 and older, I'll never forget where I was on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001. It was going to be a typical day, although there's really no such thing as typical for a journalist.

I was at work in the office when Observer publisher Mike Ryan called my attention to a small TV screen in the back room of our digs on Sara Road, telling me a plane had

just hit the World Trade Center.

And although I initially dismissed it as pilot error, that dismissal became absolute horror as a second plane hit the other tower, and the nation was in turmoil.

That's the kind of publisher Ryan was — keeping his thumb on the pulse, not only of the City of Vision, but the nation itself. Often, he would come to work talking about what he'd heard while on a treadmill at Defined Fitness, after chatting with the city's movers and shakers of the early 21st century.

Ryan, who had been in declining



Ryan

health, passed away July 10, one day after his 81st birthday. Services were at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, followed by a reception at the family home.

Genie Blair Ryan, his wife of 38 years, said

her husband had been the director of advertising for Tucson newspapers, "and when he went to work

for Wick, they appointed him the publisher in Rio Rancho, and we moved here in January 1988." Genie worked at the newspaper as a reporter.

The Ryans and Rio Rancho were like another married couple.

"I think Mike was very passionate about the community and it became kind-of our whole family's life. We were very involved in this community," Genie said. "I think there were 28,000 when we moved here, so we were here for a lot of the growth —

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RYAN: 'What I respect about Mike is (that) what you see is what you get'

FROM PAGE 23

and he loved it.

"He lived in Rio Rancho and the Observer. It was all about what a community newspaper should be — a part of the community," she said. "And we got very involved in the creation of the school district, and it became a whole community thing. We were kind of all in this together."

"Mike and Genie, to me, will always be the Observer," former Rio Rancho police officer Steve Shaw said.

That seems to be the general sentiment.

Tom Swisstack remembered meeting during his first term as the city's mayor.

"My first experience with the Observer was during campaigning. Mike Ryan and the staff were always objective and looked at the issues as they related to Rio Rancho and its growth and the surrounding communities," he said. "When you have a local paper, you always wonder if it's good to be slanted one way

or another.

"My heart always knew that he was being objective in reporting, not editorializing. He was a very personable person," Swisstack added.

"Many times, it'd be at his and Genie's house for a social function, or (I'd) bump into them (at a restaurant) and we would still have dialogue, about politics or the growth to the city."

Former JCPenney call center manager Terry Hibler said after he moved to Rio Rancho, his children and the Ryans' son, Christopher, became friends.

"Mike and I quickly became friends. I got to know him pretty good, with my role at the chamber," Hibler said. "Mike and I talked about everything from family to politics to religion to whatever. What I respect about Mike is (that) what you see is what you get: a man of integrity who listens well and is intelligent."

"It tore my heart out to get the news," said Hibler, a resident of McKinney, Texas. "We went through in April and sat down with (him) and Genie. I talked to him on the

phone probably monthly. He was one of my two or three best friends when I lived there, 22 or 23 years."

Susan Saunier, an Observer advertising representative, said she was fortunate to work 10 years for Ryan, "a true newspaper man."

"He was so much a part of Rio Rancho that people often assumed he and Genie owned the newspaper," she said. "He had an open-door policy and would welcome all who wanted to come in for a chat or a complaint."

"The office was a lively, inviting and busy place to work because he set the tone of community interaction with its newspaper. I can picture him with his camera around his neck, going out to take a picture or shoveling snow in his suit," Saunier said. "Each Christmas, he made sure the newspaper carriers had a party because, he said, 'We can all do our jobs, but without the carriers, the papers don't reach our readers. Mike truly did have 'ink in his veins,' a phrase he taught me about all of us who work in print. He was a passionate man who loved his family, his faith, his community

and the Observer."

Sometimes, being the publisher of a newspaper could be bittersweet, but that didn't matter to Ryan, ultimately forced out of his position by Wick Communications in July 2002 and replaced two months later by Shane Maddox.

"He wasn't afraid to take a stance, so we dealt a lot with people being upset with us," Genie said. "He was involved in all sorts of organizations, but we also had a whole lot of fun. He fought for the things he cared about."

The top three things he cherished, she said, were "faith, family and community."

Mike Ryan also was the instigator of the annual painting of a huge green shamrock in the early hours of every March 17 at Sara Road and Southern Road, "and he was very proud of it," Genie said.

In addition to Genie and Christopher, he is also survived by son, Tim, and daughter, Kellie Price, his children from a previous marriage, and a large extended family.

Renee Spaar, 1960-2022

Renee (Schmidt) Spaar, 61, of Odessa, Missouri, died March 8, 2022, at her home.

Born August 4, 1960, in Los Angeles, she was the daughter of Donald Schmidt and Irene Kerr Keeran.

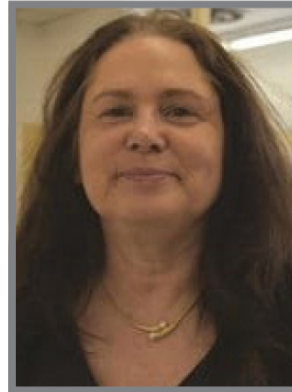
She was a 1978 graduate of California High School and a 1982 graduate of Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, with a Bachelor of Science in business.

On May 8, 1988, she married Joseph Spaar in Odessa.

She was office manager for The Odessan for more than 20 years. She developed the Newspapers in Education program for The Odessan.

She was a founding member of Odessa Outreach and a member of Beta Sigma Psi Alpha Epsilon Alpha chapter.

Her father, her stepfather, Max



Spaar

Keeran, her father-in-law, George Spaar, and her mother-in-law, Betty S. Spaar, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband of the home; two daughters, Hannah Spaar, Odessa, and Hallie

Jo and Donald Aulbert III, Lee's Summit; her mother, Centertown; a sister, Rhonda Schmidt, Brawley, Calif.; a brother, KayDon Schmidt, California; and a grandson, Jonas Hadley Aulbert.

Visitation was held March 12, at Ralph O. Jones Funeral Home.

Family suggests memorials to Odessa Outreach.

Ronald Swift, 1937–2022

Ron Swift, 84, of Patterson, California, died February 4 at his home in Patterson, where he had lived for nearly 60 years. He was born and raised in Morengo, Iowa, attending schools there where he received his BS degree from Iowa State. Ron was the owner and editor of the Patterson Irrigator for 40 years and a newspaper columnist for 57 years.

Swift was a founding member of the Patterson Township Historical Society and the Patterson Apricot Fiesta. He served as a Scoutmaster for nearly 35 years. He was honored with the 50-year award from both the Boy Scouts of America and the local Masonic Lodge. He also served as president of the Chamber of Commerce and the Patterson Lions Club. Ron was a longtime member of the KOST and served for several years as Curator of the Patterson Museum.



Swift

He enjoyed world travel with his wife, which included camel riding.

Ron is survived by his wife, Kay, of Patterson, children Mike (Erika) of San Luis Obispo, Ben (Christie) of Modesto, Beth Reyna of St. Louis, three grandchil-

dren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Iva and Harold Swift.

A memorial service was held March 5 at Hillview Funeral Chapel in Patterson.

Donations may be made to the Patterson Township Historical Society, PO Box 15, Patterson, CA 95363.

Former editor, publisher Jenay Tate passes away

BY JEFF LESTER

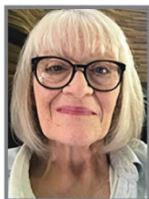
Editor | Coalfield Progress

The Coalfield Progress family is mourning a great loss. Former editor and publisher Jenay Tate passed away the morning of Jan. 15 after battling illness for some time.

Tate, 64, left the newspaper group in late 2019 after former owner American Hometown Publishing sold the papers to current owner Lewis County Press LLC. She had worked here for 40 years, beginning soon after her college graduation.

Tate, of Norton, Virginia, was the last member of her family who worked in southwest Virginia rural community journalism.

Born in Texas, Jenay was a very young girl in the early 1960s when her mother, Robbie Goode Tate, journeyed to Norton on business and met her adoptive father, Coalfield Progress editor and publisher Car-



Tate

roll Nelson Tate. After they married and had two more children, Robbie came to work for the newspaper, and Jenay grew up surrounded by the world of journalism.

The family had owned The Coalfield Progress since 1924. The Tates acquired The Post in Big Stone Gap in the 1960s and purchased the Dickenson Star in the early 1990s.

Carroll Tate, who served as president of the Virginia Press Association in 1971, retired in the early 1990s, and Robbie Tate became publisher. Robbie also served as VPA's president in 1988-89.

Jenay graduated from the University of Kentucky journalism school in 1979 and came to work full time in the

family business. By the mid '80s, she had been named editor of the Coalfield Progress.

Jenay's brother, the late Michael Nelson Tate, joined the business in the early '90s. Her passing came on Jan. 15, the same day of Michael's untimely passing in 2013.

Jenay won numerous VPA awards for journalistic excellence during her four-decade career. Those included receiving in 1988 one of the association's highest honors, the D. Lathan Mims Award for Editorial Leadership. The award, presented for opinion column and editorial writing, is named for a former editor and general manager of the Daily News-Record in Harrisonburg who "believed that newspapers and their editors should be active, caring parts of the community they served."

Jenay's commitment to the community and region was reflected for many years on the opinion page in her widely read "Inside/Out" col-

umn.

Along with serving on numerous VPA committees over the years, Jenay also was a founding member of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, which advocates on behalf of citizens for governmental transparency and freedom of information.

Jenay and Michael took over management of the newspapers in the late '90s upon Robbie Tate's retirement. The siblings sold the papers to American Hometown Publishing in 2005. Jenay continued her service, adding the work of publisher to her duties.

Preceded in death by both parents and her brother, Jenay is survived by her niece, Hannah Grace Tate, nephews Nelson Stewart Tate, Miles Andrew Tate and Ian Michael Tate, as well as her sister Carol Tate Bryant and husband, Don.

Visitation and funeral services took place Jan. 20 at Hagy & Fawbush Funeral Home.

Thomasson, former editor of Newnan Times-Herald, dies

Marianne Carlisle Thomasson, age 72, passed away Dec. 19, 2021, at Piedmont Fayette hospital after an extended illness.

Thomasson graduated from the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and began her career at the Atlanta Constitution as an action-line reporter in 1970. She quickly moved to The Newnan (Georgia) Times-Herald in 1971, first working as a reporter, then managing editor, until her retirement as vice president.

She married Billy Thomasson in 1973.

Marianne was a force to be reck-



Thomasson

oned with within the newspaper community and led the Times-Herald's newsroom with award-winning precision and a sharp sense of humor. She chaired several committees within the Georgia Press Association, including Press Institute Committee, Editorial Seminar

SEE THOMASSON, PAGE 26

THOMASSON: She was the second woman elected as Georgia Press president

FROM PAGE 25

Committee, Convention Committee and the Georgia Educational Foundation Board of Trustees. She held every executive committee position within GPA, ultimately serving as president in 1998-'99. She was the second woman to ever hold that position.

She was a president of the UGA College of Journalism Advisory Board, a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, the UGA Journalism Alumni Association, the GPA Board of Directors, GPA Journalism in Education Committee and the GPA Centennial Campaign Committee, and was a recipient of the

National Newspaper Association's Bill Brannen Fellowship.

Marianne and her leadership will be missed by many in GPA across the state. When she wasn't actively involved in her newspaper career, Marianne pursued her passions in the arts.

She grew and maintained stunning bonsai trees and could root anything. No cutting ever went to the compost heap on purpose, but if it did, it most likely rooted and grew into a prized plant. She often grew trees with special meaning to give to her friends. Visitors rarely left her house empty-handed, usually with a new plant and an ice cold cola.

She was a skilled potter, spending

hours throwing pots on her wheel and teaching her grandkids how to center a lump of clay, hand-build a work of art or fire raku in the backyard. She specialized in small pots that she used to hold accent plants for her larger bonsai, then began creating what she called tiny "dish gardens" that she filled with cuttings and gave as gifts or donated for local fundraisers.

Locally, she was active in the Coweta CERT program, the Coweta Public Safety Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Newnan and the Reading Circle. Marianne was known for telling filthy jokes and never holding back with her opinion.

She was a fierce leader, caring men-

tor and staunch advocate for truth.

The world is a better place because of her contributions to our community.

Survivors include her husband of 48 years, Billy Thomasson; daughter Beth Neely and her husband, Clay; grandchildren Charlie and Anna Neely; Damn Precious the cat; and spoiled rotten dogs Harold and Sugar. She also leaves behind one brother, Jim Carlisle (Debbie), and a sister, Deana Carlson.

Flowers are welcome, as she held a special place in her heart for Murphy's Florist. Memorial contributions can be made in her honor to Backstreet Arts, the Trevor Project, the Newnan-Coweta Humane Society, Samaritan Clinic or Phil's Friends.

Larry Tobin, former Tomahawk (Wisconsin) Leader publisher, dies at 75

Larry Michael Tobin, former publisher of the Tomahawk (Wisconsin) Leader, past president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and WNA Foundation, and Wisconsin Newspaper Hall of Fame inductee, died Dec. 12, 2021. He was 75.

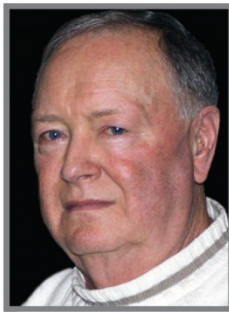
Tobin was born Feb. 4, 1946, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Charles A. and Fern (Lamar) Tobin. He graduated from St. Pius X High School in Kansas City and went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Marquette University.

During his third job out of college, as director of member services for the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, Tobin was assigned to attend the 1973 WNA convention, an event that changed his life. It was there that he began to develop a passion for the Wisconsin newspaper industry, and it was also where he met his future wife, Kathleen Ann Branen.

Tobin and Branen married 15 months later, on Feb. 8, 1975, in Burlington. Together they had two children — son Kerry and daughter Kelly — and five grandchildren.

Tobin joined the WNA staff in 1977, serving as assistant manager and legislative coordinator. He later spent a combined 21 years on the WNA Board of Directors and the WNA Foundation board, serving as president of each.

He held a fierce loyalty to the WNA long after his time on the boards, often stating, according to his obituary, that it “brought all the best things to his life.” The Tobins were regular fixtures at WNA events, including the annual convention and the Trees Retreat in Eagle River.



Tobin

Tobin's impact on the Wisconsin newspaper industry was recognized in 2015, when he was inducted into the Wisconsin Newspaper Hall of Fame.

In August 1980, the Tobins purchased the Jefferson Banner, a

weekly publication and one of the state's oldest newspapers. They sold the Banner in January 1982, and three months later they purchased the Tomahawk Leader.

Larry and Kathy published the Leader together for 37 years until selling the newspaper in June 2019 to Multi Media Channels. As weekly newspaper owners, the Tobins blazed trails in community publishing, earning state and national acclaim.

They also were active in the community, giving back through several organizations. Larry served on the board for the Tomahawk Chamber of Commerce, including two terms as president. He also was a founding member and first president of the Advance Tomahawk Foundation, a charter member of the North Central Wisconsin Private Industry Council and served on the board of the Tomahawk Development Corporation.

Tobin's extensive contributions to the community were recognized by the Tomahawk Jaycees, which honored him with a distinguished service award.

Funeral services were held Dec. 18 at Grace Lutheran Church in Tomahawk.

Ken Troedel, 1952-2022

Kenneth A. "Ken" Troedel, who enjoyed a 26-year career publishing newspapers in Wisconsin, died Tuesday, Jan. 25, at his home in Waupaca, Wisconsin. He was 69.

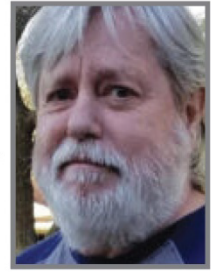
Troedel graduated from West Bend West High School, where he studied accounting and business administration at Moraine Park

Technical College — during which time he worked at The West Bend Company.

He started his career in advertising sales and worked his way up to serve as publisher of several Wisconsin newspapers.

Over his 26-year career, Troedel ran the Washington County Sunday

Post in West Bend, Ozaukee County Sunday Post in Cedarburg, The Chippewa Herald in Chippewa Falls and the Waupaca County Buyer's Guide.



Troedel

Robert Wick, champion of art, newspapers and community, dies at 86

Robert Wick, who guided Wick Communications for nearly six decades, died Jan 13, 2022. He was 86.

Wick's life was a blending of the simple and the complex — found in his art, public service and enjoyment of the printed word.

Soft-spoken yet pointed, Wick was as passionate about fighting a smelter operation in Douglas as he was about hand-watering thousands of seedlings he'd planted on his remote land in the Mule Mountains of Southeastern Arizona — the latter “a cathartic process which drew me more intensely to nature, its magic and wonder.”

FAMILY BUSINESS

Wick and his brother, Walter, purchased their uncle's interest in Wick Communications in 1965, following his death. Their father, Milton Wick, and uncle, James Wick, founded the company when they acquired the family's first newspaper in 1926 in Niles, Ohio.

Family members remain active in the business with Robert's son, Francis Wick, serving as president and CEO, and Walter's daughter,

Rebecca Rogers, serving on the board of directors.

Walter and Robert Wick assumed full ownership of the company, which expanded to 27 publications, including the Herald/Review, in 1981, following the death of their father. Wick Communications, under their stewardship, today has holdings in 11 western states, including Arizona, Washington, Oregon and Colorado.

The brothers were inducted into the Arizona Newspapers Association Hall of Fame in 2004. Walter Wick died in 2016 of pancreatic cancer.

EARLY START

It was a family business, and Robert Wick learned it by starting at the bottom. He and his brother swept floors around the newspaper office in Niles, Ohio, then worked in various departments, learning the ropes.

He followed the family tradition and studied journalism at Kent State University, where he also played baseball and had dreams of playing professionally. At the same



(MARY LEVY, HERALD/REVIEW)

Reporter Bill Hess, left, and Robert Wick in the Herald/Review offices in 2015.

time, he was falling in love with art, and then he discovered he had a talent for it.

He recounted his first serious venture into art in a 2019 newspaper article as he was preparing for

an exhibit at the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

Wick said his aunt was visiting at Christmas during his junior year

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WICK: 'They were both big-hearted'

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in college, and she noticed him doodling with Play-Doh. "Sculpt a portrait of my husband," she asked.

He said he couldn't do it, but she insisted. He took photos of his uncle, then returned to school and asked the art department for guidance. They taught him how to make an armature, the framework for a sculpture, and he got to work.

"It came out better than anything in the class," he said. "I was so dumbfounded; I didn't realize I had this in me."

It shouldn't have come as a surprise. At age 5, "my father taught me to draw with volume," he said. "In the first grade, I was drawing with three dimensions, and by the fourth grade, I was conscious of Frank Lloyd Wright and was trying to design 'futuristic architecture.'"

In his teens, he put art aside until rediscovering it in college.

Wick earned a bachelor's degrees in journalism and fine arts from Kent State University and a master of fine arts from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, one of the top art schools in the nation.

He went on to teach sculpture and drawing at Kent State and at the State University of New York, Fredonia. He and Walter Wick opened the Wick Poetry Center at Kent State in 1984 in memory of their sons.

Robert's 17-year-old son, Stanley, was killed by a drunk driver on June 30, 1980. In a tragic coincidence, Stanley's death came seven years to the day after Tom Wick, the son of Walt, also was killed in a car accident.

For more than 50 years, Wick used a combination of bronze sculptures infused with living plants to convey his message of our oneness with the Earth. He'd first experimented with plants in art in the late '60s.

"I placed a piece of ivy in the split," he said of a mask he was making. "I saw the ivy as a sign of creativity, others saw it as death, others as life. I liked the way it created another layer of meaning to the head, the work of art. From that point on, I could not consider creating sculptures without living plants, trees or vegetation of some kind."

The technique turned heads in the art world, and he exhibited, among other places, at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Akron Art Museum, Austin Museum of Art and Tucson Museum of Art. But his favorite place was showing his art in botanical gardens "because of the settings

and marvelous plant life. The sculptures truly appear to belong in such environments with the trees and plants growing from the sculpture."

"We tend to think of evolution as biological, but it's a process toward greater complexity," he said. "This art is trying to show that we are connected to nature, and we need to know that, be conscious of it, and what that means for us."

But art never crowded out the journalist in him. He found himself producing the editorial pages for the Williston (N.D.) Herald in the 1960s, and in the '80s was instrumental in shutting down the Phelps Dodge smelter in Douglas and limiting the expansion of the smelter in nearby Cananea, Mexico. He also pushed to lower by 90% the sulfur dioxide output at a new smelter in Nacosari, Mexico.

"We were able to change Southern Arizona skies to the cleanest in 100 years," he said. "It would have been the most heavily polluted landscape in North America without these changes."

In the early 1990s, Robert Wick began a nine-year effort with architect Stan Schuman "visualizing my dream" — a home with primary shapes, a pyramid right-angle triangle and a trapezoid.

"Ultimately, I looked at the house as a work of art, much like the sculptures containing both living plants and trees, which grow off the buildings as well as surrounding the sculptures with abundant life," he said.

FRIENDS REMEMBER

Eric Kardahl, CEO and president of the Amerind Museum in Dragoon, said he met Wick in 2010. Kardahl, who is an archaeologist, said Wick invited him to his house. They became fast friends.

"Such a wonderful, wonderful man," Kardahl said about Wick.

David Hassler, director of the Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University, met Wick in 1994 after Hassler won a poetry contest sponsored by the Kent State University Press.

The award — aptly titled the Wick Ohio Chapbook Award — was given to Hassler at a dinner celebrating the poetry center's 10th anniversary. He met Wick and his brother Walter at the dinner and was immediately struck by the siblings' charisma.

"They were both big-hearted and interested in helping young artists," he said.

One of his fondest memories of Bob Wick was the six summers he spent with other students at Wick's

house.

"The students spent time talking to Bob, and he shared his ideas of creativity," Hassler said. "Their writing was inspired by Bob. He planted seeds of creativity, and we carry them in our heart."

Cynthia Conroy, founder of the Bisbee 1000, The Great Stair Climb and Bisbee Vogue Inc., had a close friendship spanning more than two decades.

"Bob has created so many remarkable, beautiful and edifying expressions in word, deed, drawings and sculptures," Conroy said. "I cannot begin to express my gratitude for his influence on my life and work. His humility, love for the Earth, and brilliant spirit were always part of every conversation."

"I adored Bob Wick and will miss him greatly."

Those who knew Wick said he was a philanthropist and exceptional artist, but they also remember him as a charismatic individual who made others feel important.

Karen Nicodemus, past president of Cochise College, met Bob Wick and his wife, Estelle, in 1998. She said they were generous with dona-

tions to the school, as well as with their time.

He donated art to the school, but Wick was also interested in the education that the area's young people were receiving.

Nicodemus remembers Wick as a kind man who cared about others.

"He made you feel important when he spoke to you," Nicodemus said.

Arizona Community Foundation CEO Steve Seleznow said, "Bob was a humanitarian in the truest sense of the word. All of us at the Arizona Community Foundation were especially honored to support his philanthropic vision and the Robert J. Wick Family Foundation."

Kathy Orchekowsky, member of the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Sierra Vista, said club officers were saddened by the death of Wick.

"Mr. Wick and the entire Wick family have been generous contributors of our club and the youth in our community. We have counted on their support for a number of our club campaigns over our 25 years of providing a safe place for kids."

Donny Wilder, former Clinton (South Carolina) Chronicle publisher, dies

Donny Wilder, born March 9, 1932, was the son of the late Shadie S. Wilder and Robert P. Wilder. He peacefully passed away on November 2, 2021, with his family by his side.

Donny Wilder, once a promising football player, contracted polio at the age of 13, cutting his athletic aspirations short. His English teachers encouraged him to use his knowledge of football to begin writing for the school's newspaper. He continued his work on newspapers in Morehead City, North Carolina;

Spartanburg, South Carolina, Rock Hill, South Carolina; Sarasota, Florida; and Shelby, North Carolina, before becoming the editor and publisher of The Clinton Chronicle, a position he held from 1967 until 1987.

According to the South Carolina



Wilder

Press Association's history book, under his leadership, The Clinton Chronicle was the first weekly newspaper in South Carolina to go offset in the late 1960s.

Donny served as president of SCPA in 1974. He sold the newspaper in 1987 to Smith Newspapers of Fort Payne, Alabama.

He also was co-owner of the Radio Station WPCC from 1985 to 1993.

He served in South Carolina's House District 15 as representative from 1992-2002 and was instrumen-

tal in the development of Musgrove State Historic Park, which is located on Highway 56, a portion of which is named in his honor. He received the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor in 2002. For Donny, it was never a matter of putting political parties above service itself; it was about remembering to make people a higher priority than votes. The same applied for his career as a journalist. Donny believed that communities are more important than headlines.