

THE KANSAS PUBLISHER



OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION DEC. 12, 2012

INSIDE TODAY

PAGE 2

Kevin Slimp says “real numbers” are key to survival.

PAGE 3

How you approach clients may depend on their left brain/right brain attributes.

PAGE 4

Take a quick look back at 2012 through pictures.

PAGE 5

KPA’s crew wishes you a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

PAGE 6

A former Kansas journalist has published a new book, “Maggie Vaults Over the Moon.”

PAGE 7

Kansas newspapers are hiring.

PAGE 8

Doug Anstaett writes about a disturbing trend in Washington.

KPA CALENDAR

DEC. 15

National Bill of Rights Day.

MAR. 10-16, 2013

Sunshine Week, sponsored by the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

MAY 3-4, 2013

Kansas Press Association 150th annual convention, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka.

SEPT. 12-15, 2013

National Newspaper Association 127th annual convention, Phoenix.



Richard Gannon, director of governmental affairs for the Kansas Press Association, has made a name for himself as the official bagpiper for the Kansas

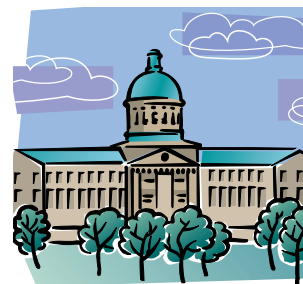
Legislature. Gannon served three terms as a Kansas senator representing northwest Kansas and has been at KPA since late 2003.

What can we expect from this year’s session?

The 2012 election cycle produced a “Who’s Who” of new officeholders in the Kansas Legislature.

So what are the prospects for open government legislation in the upcoming session?

“It’s really up in the air,” said Richard Gannon, director of governmental affairs for the Kansas Press Association. “We have almost completely new leadership in both houses, lots of moderate Republicans are no longer there or have lost their leadership positions. My guess is no one really knows what is



going to happen.”

KPA’s agenda this year includes an attempt to bring some sanity to the rates charged for public records and some respect to the spirit of the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

“We’re working with some partners to tackle what has become an out-of-control process among cities, counties and school districts for what they

charge to retrieve public records,” Gannon said.

See **SESSION** on Page 5

Nominate a teacher for free journalism training

Do you know a high school journalism or English teacher who would be a good candidate for free training through the Reynolds Journalism Institute?

Five premier journalism programs will host the 2013

Reynolds High School Journalism Institutes next summer, where high school teachers learn the latest trends in news literacy and multi-media journalism.

Here are the dates and places:

• Arizona State University, Phoenix, June 16-28.

• University of Texas at Austin, June 16-28.

• Kent State University, Ohio, July 7-19.

• University of Nevada, Reno, July 14-26.

See **TRAINING** on Page 3

Even those not connected to news need accurate statistics on readers

Definition: *Underwriter* — One who assumes financial responsibility for; guarantee against failure. To insure against losses.

Hardly a day goes by that I don't get a call or message from people, telling me how something I wrote changed their businesses, lives or both.

Such was the case last week, when my phone vibrated as I strolled through the aisles of my favorite department store.

The call was from a director of a major underwriting firm. When I say, "major," I mean one of the big ones. So big, in fact, that her company was the underwriter for the very store in which I was strolling.

I get a lot of calls from people who contact me for advice, or just to tell me how something I wrote or said affected them.

"You know," she said, "your name came up in a board meeting today."

Nothing amazes me anymore, but I still feign surprise when I hear something like this.

"Really?" I replied with as much sincerity as possible, "Why would my name come up in a meeting of a major financial firm?"

With my luck, I thought she was about to tell me, I was behind on a mortgage payment or credit card bill. But that wasn't it.

"We had a request to continue underwriting 23 newspapers today," she told me. I learned that the papers were located in metro areas across the U.S.

"The request was summarily denied because it came from a chain of newspapers. And, from what we'd all heard through the media, newspapers were a dying breed. Not a good investment."

I still wondered how my name fit into all this. That's when I learned the rest of the story.

"I remembered reading a column you wrote a couple of weeks back about how numbers were often misrepresented when the media reported newspaper statistics."

Now she had my interest.

"You wrote that the circulation numbers for printed newspapers were much better than most headlines indicate."

A very smart woman, I thought.

"So, we had someone check the numbers of these 23 newspapers and found that they were all quite profitable."

She went on to tell me that her firm reversed its decision and felt confident approving the request.

It seems like every month I'm writing something about circulation numbers, advertising sales or some other topic related to the overall health of the newspaper industry. Although most of the critics have quieted, I still feel the bite of the criticism aimed my way for staunchly supporting the print industry when most experts left it for dead.

Then I get a call like this. And I realize that, quite possibly, 23 newspapers are in business today because this firm looked past the headlines and dug deeper to find the truth about the newspaper industry. And when they did, they felt comfortable making a financial stake in it.

So today, I'm not going to gripe about newspaper groups that are doing irreparable damage by making bad decisions or publications that write misleading headlines.

Instead, I am going to thank Michelle



Kevin Slimp

See SLIMP on Page 4

2011-12 KPA BOARD

Ben Marshall

President

Sterling Bulletin

bmarshall31@cox.net

Dena Sattler

First Vice President

Garden City Telegram

denas@gctelegram.com

Dan Thalmann

Second Vice President

Washington County News

editor@bluvalley.net

Susan Lynn

Treasurer

Iola Register

susanlynnks@yahoo.com

Patrick Lowry

Past President

Hays Daily News

plowry@dailynews.net

A.J. Bozarth

Central District Director

Norwich News, South Haven New Era

ajprinting@havilandtelco.com

Susan Cantrell

Northeast District Director

Lawrence Journal-World

scantrell@ljworld.com

Gregg Ireland

Daily Director

Topeka Capital-Journal

gregg.ireland@cjonline.com

Sarah Kessinger

Nondaily Director

Marysville Advocate

skessinger@marysvilleonline.net

Brad Lowell

Northwest District Director

Concordia Blade-Empire

bladeempire@nckcn.com

Randy Mitchell

Southwest District Director

Newton Kansan/Dodge City Daily Globe

randy.mitchell@thekansan.com

Rebecca Rice

Legislative Director

Lindsborg News-Record

rebecca@rebeccarice.com

Andy Taylor

Southeast District Director

Montgomery County Chronicle

chronicle@taylornews.org

NOVEMBER KDAN, KCAN WINNERS

The following newspapers sold either KDAN or KCAN ads in November, 2012.

Remember, if you sell one of these ads, which run in almost 150 Kansas newspapers, you keep half the money. On out-of-state ads, you get half the commission.

KDANs were sold by:

Anderson County Review — Sold two 2x4's for \$1,650 in commissions.

Clay Center Dispatch — Sold a 2x2 for \$400 in commission.

The Anderson County Review also sold four out-of-state KDANs with another \$720 in commissions.

GateHouse Media sold 15 KCAN ads for a total commission of \$2,250.

Don't miss out: your newspaper can reap huge benefits by extending the reach of your local advertisers through the KDAN and KCAN programs.

How to fix a common communications flaw

The flaw: You're meeting with a prospective client, but you seem to be communicating on different wavelengths. When you mention a key sales point, your prospect barely acknowledges it. And when he or she talks, you feel like the entire conversation is off topic. The experience reminds you of the two proverbial ships passing in the night, with neither crew being aware of the other.

The fix: The problem may be a matter of complete disinterest – a result of trying to sell the wrong thing to the wrong person. But as long as you've done your homework on the prospective advertiser's business, it's more likely a clash of communication styles.

These days, there's a lot of talk about personality types and behavioral styles. There are many systems to categorize the ways we think and act, including the DiSC profile (with four categories) and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (with 16). While these systems are useful, sometimes it's better to take a simpler approach. In a sales situation, an understanding of right/left brain differences may be all you need to



John Foust

keep the conversation on the right track.

Research has revealed that the two sides of the brain account for different modes of thinking – and that each person shows a preference for one of the two. Left brainers are more logical and analytical than right brainers; they tend to look at parts, rather than the whole situation. Right brainers are more creative and intuitive; they are likely to see wholes, rather than individual parts.

Left brainers like numbers and charts. Right brainers like words and ideas.

A typical left brainer likes an organized workspace, a desk that is free of clutter. A right brainer doesn't mind a little clutter.

Most accountants, media buyers and computer programmers are left brainers. Most creative directors, writers and teachers are right brainers.

Now this doesn't mean that right brainers can't balance a checkbook, or that left brainers can't play the piano. It just means that these two styles have different ways of looking at the world around them. And different ways of communicating.

When you're talking to a prospect, look for clues. If he or she has the opposite thinking style from yours, you have to be

the one to make the adjustment. If you want to advance the sale, don't expect the other person to adjust to you.

When you're meeting with a left brainer, focus on numbers and statistics. Use charts to illustrate readership figures. Show how

ad responses can be measured. Pay special attention to the individual ingredients of a proposal (remember, they like to look at parts).

When you're dealing with a right brainer, don't drag them into what I once

heard described as "the deep, deep woods of Spreadsheetville." Cover the numbers, of course, but place more emphasis on the creative angle – what the ads will look like and what they will say.

Neither side is wrong. They're just different. The best sales people understand how to adapt.

John Foust has conducted training programs for thousands of newspaper advertising professionals. Many are using his training videos to save time and get quick results from in-house training. E-mail for information at jfoust@mindspring.com.

(c) Copyright 2012 by John Foust. All rights reserved.

Training

Continued from Page 1

• University of Missouri, Columbia, July 14-26.

Applications are being accepted through March 1. Teachers' expenses will be paid for the two-week Institutes. For more information, visit <http://www.hsj.org>.

The Institutes are part of an ongoing national effort to grow an informed citizenry that can discern quality news and inspire multi-media youth journalists.

"The Institutes provide top-level training and tools to teachers committed to their craft," said Le Anne Wiseman, director of high school journalism programs at the American Society of News Editors.

In addition to the two-week training, each teacher will be given the building blocks of a classroom media library, including guides on news literacy, multimedia journalism, scholastic press law and engaging diverse communities.

More than 1,908 teachers have completed

the ASNE-coordinated training since 2001, and most continue to teach journalism and/or advise student media. "The teachers return to their communities and educate both newsreaders and future news-leaders," said Wiseman.

The Institutes are named for the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation that has funded the Institutes since 2007. The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation is a national philanthropic organization founded in 1954 by the late media entrepreneur for whom it is named.

The American Society of News Editors (ASNE), in partnership with the five University hosts, provides significant support for the Institutes. ASNE focuses on the First Amendment, leadership development, journalism education and diversity.

For more information about the Summer 2013 Institutes, contact:

Le Anne Wiseman, Director, High School Journalism Programs, American Society of News Editors, 209 Reynolds Journalism Institute, Columbia, MO 65211, 573-884-2689, lwiseman@asne.org.

The website is <http://www.asne.org>.

Introducing

PHOTOS UNLIMITED

450,000 stock photos you'll love!
Unlimited Users & Unlimited Downloads

creative OUTLET
by Ad-Builder

Questions? Need help? We're here!
800.245.9278 or create@creativeoutlet.com

Learn more at:
www.get450.com



2012 in Review

Clockwise starting at bottom right: Well-wishers greet retiring Marysville Advocate Co-Publisher Howard Kessinger at a reception; KPA President Ben Marshall and KPA Board member A.J. Bozarth listen to new Salina Journal Publisher Olaf Frandsen explain the Journal's expanded printing operation; Hutchinson News Publisher John D. Montgomery enjoys a lighter moment with Lisa Mendoza of the Kansas Attorney General's Office during a KORA-KOMA training session; panel members at the 2012 Montgomery Symposium address participants at "Journalists and the Courts."



Slimp

Continued from Page 2

Rea for a speech she gave to newspapers in New York recently about the need to report numbers accurately. I almost thought I was reading something I had written myself when I perused her transcript.

She was on target when she said, "Newspapers shouldn't retreat. I urge you to unite the fight. Fight back with powerful

messaging to advertisers and with brilliant products to deliver to readers."

Anne Lannan, executive director of Ontario Community Newspapers Association, recently reminded readers of NewsClips that advertising revenue in Canadian community papers has risen from \$850 million to \$1.2 billion over the past 10 years. She also noted that OCNA has grown from 272 members to 313 members over those years.

Both Michelle and Anne correctly reminded their members that most of the

numbers reported by major media come from the metro markets, which haven't fared as well as community newspapers.

Oh, sorry. I said I wasn't going to preach. Sometimes, I can't help myself.

Twenty-three newspapers have an underwriter today because I made a fuss about a headline last month. Maybe it's time we all kicked up a little dust.

Kevin Slimp is a speaker and trainer in the newspaper industry. He can be reached at kevin@kevinslimp.com.



'Tis the season to be jolly!

The staff of the Kansas Press Association wishes each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We enjoy serving you and look forward as you do to an even brighter 2013. Front from

left are Lori Jackson, Rachel Willis and Sara Marstall. Back row from left are Richard Gannon, Emily Bradbury, Amy Blaufelder and Doug Anstaett.

Market/Jobs

Continued from Page 7

niche products. The Circulation Operations Manager oversees all circulation employees and contracted haulers and carriers. Reports to the publisher of The Hutchinson News and to the state audience director for Harris' Kansas newspapers. Candidates should have at least three years experience in home delivery, sales, transportation and other circulation disciplines, an excellent work ethic and a customer-first service philosophy. Apply with resume and references to The Hutchinson News, Debbie Irwin, PO Box 190, Hutchinson, KS 67504 or email at dirwin@hutchnews.com. Deadline for applications: Dec. 19, 2012.

REVENUE IDEAS

BOOST YOUR REVENUE — Invest 6 minutes of your time to watch these online tutorials about your newspaper's newest non-advertising revenue stream. Solavei cuts your cell phone bill with unlimited 4G voice, text and data service and pays you to sign up your readers. Just run house ads and promote it like you would any product you sell. Watch these videos, then call me to get started. Worth the risk, because you risk nothing. Dane Hicks, publisher, The

Anderson County Review. Click videos here: Solavei 6-Minute Overview: <http://vimeo.com/48049267>; Solavei Overview Vision Presentation: <http://vimeo.com/46908223>; Compensation Plan Overview-Solavei: <http://vimeo.com/46411570>.

DIGITAL MEDIA

The Hays Daily News' Pixel Power Haus wants to give you control over the directory residents use to find information about the businesses that make up your coverage area. BizLink is a searchable database of businesses and organizations that provides considerable upsell opportunity for newspaper seeking new revenue streams. You've seen expensive "subscription-based" models ... try one that works with your budget. Call Patrick Lowry at (785) 628-1081 to hear how we can help.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

KANSA 480 INSERTER — Reduce labor costs with an efficient machine for handling preprinted inserts. The Garden City Telegram is selling its Kansa 480, 5:1 inserter, in good condition. This unit performs with a high degree of reliability and consistency over a wide range of operating conditions. Works with broadsheets for everything from single sheet fliers to multi-page editions and has been well maintained. Length 23'10", width

6'4" to 8'10" for creeper conveyor. We used an inline labeler and typically operated the unit at 6,000 to 6,500 pieces per hour though it is rated to do more than double that amount. Model #4601; Serial #480-036. Asking \$10,000, however no reasonable offer refused. For more information email Dena Sattler, denas@gctelegram.com, or call (620) 275-8500, extension 201.

Session

Continued from Page 1

"They're all over the board, and mostly the charges have become outrageous."

Because some of the discussions are at a sensitive state, KPA can't be more specific publicly about the ideas.

"We want to assess the lay of the land before we announce the specifics," Gannon said. "The two majority leaders — Terry Bruce in the Senate and Jene Vickrey in the House — have been good friends of open government, and the new Speaker has as well."

KPA will continue to monitor bills for attacks on public notice and other attempts to free local governments from their responsibility to keep the public informed.

Former newspaperman publishes teen sports novel based on farm life

WICHITA – Former rural newspaper editor and sports writer Grant Overstake has drawn upon his coverage of sporting events and country life to create a new teen sports novel about life on a Kansas family farm.

Overstake says his years spent as a journalist embedded in Kansas wheat country helped him create a vivid setting for the story, “Maggie Vaults Over the Moon,” in which a high school senior named Maggie Steele struggles with the same difficult decision faced by many of today’s rural teens — pursue the life of her dreams or stay home to save the multi-generational family farm.

“As the only surviving child, Maggie has many factors to consider about a possible future on the farm,” Overstake said. “Of course, readers will have to read the story to follow her journey of self-discovery, and to see which path she chooses to take.”

As editor of the Hillsboro Star-Journal, Overstake was a two-time winner of the Kansas Farm Bureau’s Golden Wheat Award for excellence in agriculture writing. The author places his story near the fictional town of Grain Valley, Kan., which, in real life, could be anyplace where sports still matter and the grain elevator is the busiest place in town, especially at harvest time.

The new book, released in mid-October, has earned several five-star reviews from readers on Amazon.com, including one that reads, “Getting to know Maggie Steele, her family, and the whole warm and caring community of Grain Valley was a pure delight ...”

The Wichita native began his profes-

sional writing career at age 18 as a part-time sports writer for the Wichita Eagle. After earning a degree in journalism from the University of Kansas, he served a short stint as editor of the Johnson City Pioneer, in far western Kansas, before moving on to write sports, news and features for the Miami Herald in South Florida. After a 20-year hiatus from journalism, the author returned to the Sunflower State to edit the Star-Journal, where he received a dozen Awards of

Excellence from the Kansas Press Association.

In writing his first novel, the author consulted with three-time Olympic pole-vaulter and coach, Earl Bell, to make certain that the pole-vaulting segments were realistic as possible. The result was a book that has been endorsed by a pair of 2012 U.S. Olympic pole-vaulters, and USA Today sports columnist and author Christine Brennan.

Recently featured in the national VAULTER Magazine, the novel has been called an “inspiring” work of sports fiction about one of the fastest-growing sports, especially among girls.

Most meaningful to the author, however, are the positive reviews from readers with roots in rural Kansas, who see themselves and their cherished lifestyles reflected in the characters portrayed in the pages of Maggie Vaults Over the Moon.

“I’ve heard from many people from farms and small towns like Grain Valley,” Overstake.

Maggie Vaults Over the Moon, is available at Amazon.com or you can visit <http://www.maggienvaultoverthemoon.com>.



THIS MONTH'S QUESTION

Q. How does the KPA's Legal Hotline work?

A. You make a call to our Legal Hotline consultant, Mike Merriam, who is on retainer with KPA to provide “first call” services to our members on questions about libel, advertising law, letters to the editor and any other legal issue that arises in the course of covering the news or selling advertising. If more legal work is necessary beyond that first telephone or e-mail conversation, then you will be expected to cover those expenses.

KPA OFFICE STAFF

Doug Anstaett
Executive Director
danstaett@kspress.com

Amy Blaufelder
Accountant
ablaufelder@kspress.com

Emily Bradbury
Member Services Director, KPA
Executive Director,
Kids Voting Kansas
ebradbury@kspress.com

Richard Gannon
Governmental Affairs Director
rgannon@kspress.com

Lori Jackson
Administrative Assistant/Advertising
ljackson@kspress.com

Sara Marstall
Advertising Director
smarstall@kspress.com

Rachel Willis
KPA Education Director
Executive Director,
Kids Voting USA
rwillis@kspress.com

KPA CONSULTANTS

Tom Eblen
Community Newspaper Tune-ups
teblen@sunflower.com

Ron Fields
Technology Consultant
Hays Daily News
(785) 628-1081 or 800-657-6017
rfields@dailynews.net

Mike Kautsch
Media Law, KU School of Law
mkautsch@ku.edu

Mike Merriam
Media Law, Legal Hotline
(785) 233-3700
merriam@merriamlaw.net

FRIEND OF KPA

Randy Brown
Executive Director
Kansas Sunshine Coalition
for Open Government, WSU
randy.brown@wichita.edu

JOB OPENINGS/FOR SALE

NEWS

REPORTER — The Chanute Tribune in southeast Kansas is seeking a reporter to cover city government beat and feature writing. The beat will require everything from covering meetings to enterprising feature stories. Knowledge of AP Style and experience in photography, videography and InDesign experience a plus. College degree in journalism is preferred. The Tribune is a five-day a week AM newspaper located two hours from Kansas City, Tulsa, Joplin and Wichita. Please email resume to editor Stu Butcher: stu@chanute.com or mail to Chanute Tribune, P.O. Box 559, Chanute, KS 66720.

REPORTER — The Marysville Advocate, a north-central Kansas family weekly, is seeking an enterprising, energetic reporter to cover Marshall County government and courts, write features and update the Advocate website. Position also involves page design and layout. The job is full time with benefits. To apply, please send a resume, clips and three references to editor Sarah Kessinger, skessinger@marysvilleonline.net. For more information, call 785-562-2317.

REPORTER — Journalist wanted to serve as chief reporter for Fort Leavenworth Lamp. Report on news, features, education and more. Stable, full-time position in an upbeat, professional environment with benefits through GateHouse Media. Demonstrated writing skills and journalism degree or equivalent required. Send resume, cover letter, and writing samples to Dale Brendel, general manager, Leavenworth Times, at dale.brendel@leavenworthtimes.com.

COPY EDITOR/PAGE DESIGNER — The Garden City Telegram is seeking a copy editor/page designer who can make good copy great, has a knack for designing engaging, attractive pages, and possesses the ability to take a lead role on the copy/design desk — and can do it all on tight deadlines. Previous experience as a copy editor and page designer at a daily newspaper preferred as the person in this position will be asked to juggle working with reporters, editing copy, laying out pages and occasional writing assignments. Knowledge of AP Style is required, and experience with InDesign is preferred. The Telegram, a daily newspaper in southwest Kansas and part of the Harris Group, offers a generous salary and benefits package and a chance to work with an outstanding staff of reporters and editors. The Telegram is an Equal Opportunity Employer. To apply, send resume and cover letter to: Brett Riggs,

managing editor, The Garden City Telegram, 310 N. Seventh St., Garden City, KS 67846. For more information or to express interest in the position, send e-mail to: riggs@gctelegram.com.

The Beloit Call, a three-day-a-week publication in north-central Kansas, is seeking a combination NEWS EDITOR/SPORTS WRITER. Salary commensurate with experience. Health care insurance provided along with a voluntary Simple IRA plan. Send resume, clips and salary history to Brad Lowell at jbrad@nckcn.com, Box 309, Concordia, Kansas 66901.

FREELANCE SPORTS WRITERS — Sixteen 60 Publishing, publishers of the Lincoln Sentinel and Chapman News-Times, is looking for freelance sports writers who can compose weekly sports stories featuring our area high schools in Chapman, Lincoln, Sylvan Grove, and Tescott. Stories can be compiled from statistics and coach interviews. Great opportunity for aggressive sports writer to supplement current income. Send experience and clips to publisher John Baetz at johnbaetz@gmail.com.

REPORTER — The Wabaunsee County Signal-Enterprise, Alma, Kansas seeks part-time help to report County Commission meetings as well as other occasional meetings. Contact Ervan Stuewe for details and appointment at 785-765-3327.

MARKETING/ADVERTISING

Independently owned newspaper located in Southeast Kansas has openings in ADVERTISING SALES in our Chanute, KS office. The job requires making daily sales calls to established accounts, building an account list, achieving monthly sales goals for multiple products, including the newspaper, website, niche products and a community magazine. This is a small retail sales market with the closest city about half an hour away. If you like people, have an outgoing personality and a positive attitude, this could be a great opportunity. Compensation includes salary, monthly commissions and a competitive benefit package. Apply in writing to Peter Cook, The Chanute Tribune, PO Box 559, Chanute, KS 66720. No phone calls please.

FREELANCE ADVERTISING SALES — Kansas Pregame Football Magazine is in need of a freelance salesperson to help us achieve our potential in the state's major metro markets of Wichita, Topeka, and the

Kansas City metro. If you have sales experience and an existing client base within these areas this could be an excellent source of supplementary sales income. If interested please contact publisher John Baetz at johnbaetz@gmail.com.

PRODUCTION

PACKAGING SUPERVISOR — The position is responsible for managing a staff of full and part-time Mailroom employees in assembling, inserting and packaging two daily newspapers and several weekly newspapers, special sections and niche publications. Responsible for a heavy volume of insert pieces, and decision-making during critical times of the operation. Good judgment and communication skills are essential. The Packaging Supervisor must plan effectively in order to achieve results necessary in the Mailroom, which operates overnight six days a week. This includes insert-receiving inventory and scheduling the packaging process and staff in a way to achieve positive results. The Packaging Supervisor must be mechanically inclined in order to resolve mechanical issues that arise, and be able to lift up to 50 pounds. Must be able to effectively communicate with employees and peers and achieve positive results by hiring, motivating and leading the mailroom staff. Experience in the packaging industry a plus. To apply, please send resume to: Dena Sattler, Editor-publisher, denas@gctelegram.com, The Garden City Telegram, PO Box 958, Garden City, KS 67846.

The Pittsburg Morning Sun newspaper has a full-time PRESS OPERATOR position available. Experience operating a 5 unit Urbanite press is desired. Position requires a high degree of concentration, excellent quality control skills, press maintenance knowledge and managing all aspects of safety. Approximate shift hours are 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. This position includes a full benefit package, health, dental, vision and 401k. EOE. Send resumes to Steve Boggs, publisher, at 701 N. Locust, P.O. Drawer H, Pittsburg, Kan. 66762, or email to steve.boggs@morning-sun.net.

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION OPERATIONS MANAGER — The Hutchinson News is seeking an experienced newspaper circulator to manage transportation, home delivery and single copy for a 30,000-circulation daily newspaper, a weekly entertainment TMC and other

Partisan politics: Will it be the death of America?

I heard an interesting speaker at the Newspaper Association Managers Legislative Conference Dec. 3 and 4 in Washington, D.C.

Rep. Jim Cooper, a Tennessee Blue Dog Democrat, was our closing luncheon speaker.

Cooper is the antithesis of the typical Washington politician:

- He refuses to carry the party banner. He votes with leadership at a much lower clip than most of his colleagues.
- He is blunt, no matter what audience he is addressing, even ours.
- And he's consistent to a fault, which is really no fault at all.

You might wonder just exactly what a

Blue Dog Democrat is. Well, a Blue Dog is conservative, which is obviously out of character for the majority of the members of that party, at least the ones in the nation's capital.

The Blue Dog Coalition is comprised of 25 or so members of Congress that are closer to the center of the political spectrum and, according to its preamble, "dedicated to the financial stability and national security of the country, notwithstanding partisan political positions and personal fortune."

Who are some of his colleagues in the coalition? I'd tell you, but you've likely never heard of a single one of them, probably because they've all been ostracized.

Too bad. But that's Washington.

Cooper said most Americans would be

shocked to know the truth about the "real" national debt, but you won't hear the true numbers from most Democrats or Republicans.

Cooper wants you to know both parties are to blame for the mess, and he identified two troubling trends that don't bode well for the future of our republic.

First, he said, partisan politics has become so fierce that if you don't vote with the leadership 95 to 99 percent of the time, you're in trouble.

That seems to leave little room for thinking for yourself, or even listening to good ideas from the other side of the political aisle. Compromise? Forget about it.

The same afternoon as Cooper's speech, Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan., was demoted from two key House committees, the Budget Committee and the Agriculture Committee.

The GOP leadership isn't saying, but it appears Huelskamp is in trouble because he actually had the nerve to vote his conscience and what he believes to be the will of his constituency. He's apparently too conservative even for the conservatives!

Now, I'm not a fan of Tim Huelskamp — I sit far to the left of him on the political spectrum — but doesn't the oath of office refer to upholding the U.S. Constitution and not the elected official's political party? Not in today's poisonous Washington atmosphere.

Cooper said he votes with the Democrat-

ic leadership about 80 percent of the time, which in the years before the mid-1990s would have fit the record of a strict party loyalist.

Not anymore. Cooper is considered an outsider in his own party, just as Huelskamp is on the Republican side of the aisle.

Second, the Tennessee congressman said, the goal of a member of Congress today is not to rise to the top and become a leader in the House or Senate.

No, the goal is to vote in such a narrow way that a special interest group finds you attractive and hires you

away for a gazillion dollars.

Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., announced on the same day Huelskamp was demoted that he was resigning from the Senate to lead an ultra-right wing conservative think tank.

A Tea Party hero, DeMint voted "right" so many times that the Heritage Foundation anointed him as its next leader.

Washington has become toxic. It is severely broken, quite possibly beyond repair.

Cooper had one more thing to say: In the past, when politicians deliberately put the national security or financial well-being of our nation at risk, as they are now with the Fiscal Cliff stalemate, we called it treason.

What do we call it now? Party loyalty?

Doug Anstaett is about to enter his 10th year as executive director of the Kansas Press Association.



Doug Anstaett

The goal is to vote in such a way that a special interest group finds you an attractive standard-bearer and hires you away for a gazillion dollars.

NEWS BRIEFS

KPA begins switch to ACH

The Kansas Press Association's accounting department is asking newspapers to begin accepting ACH payments for advertising placements and network rebates.

ACH, Automated Clearing House, is an electronic network for financial transactions.

"In an effort to reduce expenses and assure prompt and secure payment to you, KPA will begin using ACH in the near future," said Amy Blaufelder, accounting director for KPA. "KPA intends to utilize ACH for payment purposes only for now.

"This method is far more secure than a paper check since accounting information is handled by fewer people."

A letter and authorization form is being mailed to each member of KPA with this

year's dues statement. Please fill it out and return it at your earliest convenience.

"We realize not all newspapers will participate at first, but we need to begin this conversion now and implement it over time," she said.

Juror misconduct found

A Shawnee County District Court judge has ruled there was juror misconduct when a juror in the trial of Anceo D. Stovall posted remarks on CJOnline.com news stories during the trial.

In a 12-page ruling issued late Monday, District Judge Evelyn Wilson said "the court determines Mr. Stovall has established that juror misconduct occurred during his trial."

Now, the Shawnee County District At-

torney's Office will have to show "beyond a reasonable doubt" that the error didn't affect the outcome of the trial, Wilson wrote.

Stovall, whose trial started June 25 and ended July 24, requested a new trial based on juror misconduct. A commenter named "BePrepared" posted a comment on July 21 while the jury was recessed on a news story written on July 19. The comments suggested "BePrepared" was a juror.

Business reporter named

Megan Hart is the new business reporter at the Topeka Capital-Journal and has debuted a new Sunday business page. She claims Lancaster, Pa., as home, is a Michigan State University graduate and worked previously at the Muskegon (Mich.) Chronicle.