Best Lifestyle Photo
Division 3
2016 Better Newspaper Contest
By Matt Baldwin, Whitefish Pilot

Titled: Skaters

Judge’s Comments: This image is clean and graphic. The wide shot from farther away gives a good sense of place.
# MNACalendar

## February
1. Begin accepting nominations for the 2017 Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame and Master Editor/Publisher Awards
4. 2017 Better Newspaper Contest is closed to entries at 10:00 pm
17. Deadline to submit articles for the February Press Pass

## March
10. Job and Internship Fair - U of M School of Journalism. For more info, email journalism.umt.edu
12. Sunshine Week
17. Sunshine Week Event sponsored by the MNA, MT FOI Hotline and MBA - Montana Capitol, Helena
17. Deadline to submit articles for the March Press Pass
30. High School Journalism Day - U of M School of Journalism
31. Deadline to submit nominations for the 2017 Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame and Master Editor/Publisher Awards

## April
15. Montana Corporation Annual Report filing deadline with the Montana Secretary of State
16. Dean Stone Lecture - U of M UC Ballroom at 7:00 pm
21. MNA and MNAS Board of the Directors’ meeting - Don Anderson Hall U of M School of Journalism
21. Dean Stone Banquet - Holiday Inn, Missoula
21. Deadline to submit articles for the April Press Pass

## May
19. Deadline to submit articles for the May Press Pass
29. MNA office will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday

## June
8. MNA and MNAS Board of Directors’ Meeting - Pine Meadow Golf Course, Lewistown
8, 9. MNA office will be closed for the annual convention
9, 10. 132nd MNA Annual Convention - Yogo Inn, Lewistown
10. Montana Newspaper Advertising Service Annual Meeting - Yogo Inn, Lewistown
10. Montana Newspaper Association Annual Meeting - Yogo Inn, Lewistown
10. Montana Newspaper Foundation Annual Meeting - Yogo Inn, Lewistown
10. 2017 Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame and Master Editor/Publisher Awards - Yogo Inn, Lewistown
10. 2017 MNA Better Newspaper Contest Awards and Banquet - Yogo Inn, Lewistown
10. Montana Newspaper Advertising Service Annual Meeting - Yogo Inn, Lewistown
10. Montana Newspaper Association Annual Meeting - Yogo Inn, Lewistown
10. Montana Newspaper Foundation Annual Meeting - Yogo Inn, Lewistown
10. 2017 Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame and Master Editor/Publisher Awards - Yogo Inn, Lewistown
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21. Deadline to submit articles for the April Press Pass

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### 2017 Better Newspaper Contest is now open for entries

The contest website is www.betterbnc.com. The site will close on February 14, 2017.

Our contest committee has improved our 2017 BNC by adding 12 new categories and has modified some of our circulation categories.

Contest winners will be honored at the always popular and fun Better Newspaper Contest Banquet during the 132nd MNA Annual Convention on June 10, 2017, at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown.

You’ll find the 2017 MNA Better Newspaper Contest Rules attached with this email or click on:


You’ll find the 2017 MNA Better Newspaper Contest Online Entry Instructions attached with this email or click on:


For questions, please contact Jim Rickman, (office) 443-2850, (cell) 465-3236 or jim@mtnewspapers.com
MEMBER PROFILE

TRACY McNEW
Owner, Editor, Publisher and sometimes Janitor
The Montanian, a free weekly newspaper in Libby, Montana

BORN, YEAR & PLACE:
1977, New York

FAMILY:
Husband, Zach, and 9-year-old daughter, Riley

EDUCATION:
Licensed Practical Nurse, BA- Biological Sciences, Master of Public Administration

FIRST NEWSPAPER JOB:
The Montanian, purchased in 2016

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND DIVERSIONS:
Rotary Club of Kootenai Valley, President 2017-2018; a few other clubs and boards, and full time soccer mom.
Diversions: Wanderlust, relaxing with friends over a meal and drinks, audio books, acquiring as many pink items as my husband will tolerate, playing outside, and occasionally indulging in as much luxury and idleness as I can get.

HOW DID YOUR CAREER LEAD YOU TO WHERE YOU ARE NOW?
My career didn’t play much of a role, but my favorite childhood author may have. “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.” ~Dr. Suess
A love of creative expression, the same eight-to-five desk job for seven years, and either a mid-life crisis or a wild hair are likely to blame. Also, mixed in was some good fortune, a supportive husband, friends with big ideas, and nearly adequate preparation to take on the job. Lastly, I suffer from an inability to resist the temptation of a new adventure. In summary, I don’t have a lot of experience in the industry.

WHAT’S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU LEARNED ALONG THE WAY THAT PREPARED YOU FOR YOUR CURRENT ROLE?
If it feels right, do it. We all need to do more of what makes us happy. The newspaper makes me happy. Newspapers are cool. They are old-fashioned, hand-held bits of frozen time that need to live on and be preserved for future generations. The internet news sites may get more hits while the newspaper industry takes hits, but somehow, newspapers are still relevant. They are trusted, they are quoted, they uncover major issues that impact people’s lives, they share stories that inspire laws and social change, and they provide comfort and entertainment to millions of readers all over the world. I may be up until 4 a.m. working on the newspaper, but I want to be a part of that world. It feels right, so I do it.

WHAT ASPECT OF THE JOB DO YOU FIND THE MOST REWARDING?
I can’t name just one, so here is a list: endless variety, learning about my community, personal growth opportunities, meeting new people, creative expression, and the excitement of a breaking story. My most rewarding experience to date was being awarded a fellowship to attend Media Law School at the University of South Carolina’s School of Law last fall. I had an opportunity to meet a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter, learn from classmates with much more experience, and better understand the intersection of media and the law.

WHAT ASPECT OF THE JOB DO YOU FIND THE MOST CHALLENGING?
Balancing competing priorities. From editing to investigating, and ad sales to office cleaning, there is always enough to do.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ENHANCE THE BRAND OF YOUR NEWSPAPER IN YOUR AREA?
The Montanian was 28 years old when we purchased it, so we wanted to preserve the brand and the elements of the paper while modernizing it. We’ve enhanced our local focus by expanding our community updates, become involved by donating to community events, and started covering more local news stories every week. We’ve also updated our masthead and layout to modernize and standardize our appearance from week to week.

WHAT IS YOUR DIGITAL STRATEGY RIGHT NOW?
We are on Facebook and we’re in the process of developing a website that will be updated with content from each issue of our printed paper.

WHAT IS YOUR PRINT STRATEGY RIGHT NOW?
The Montanian is delivered to over 80 locations in the towns of Libby and Troy. We are highly visible and free, so everyone has an opportunity to pick one up and read it.

HOW DOES THE MNA SERVE YOU AND YOUR NEWSPAPER?
I call MNA my newspaper Google. If I have a question, and I have a lot of them, they’re just a phone call or email away. They’ve always got an answer or a resource to find an answer, and, most importantly, someone on the other end of the phone that is genuinely happy to help. I appreciate their support, patience, friendliness and guidance.
The 2017 Legislature marks the fifth session that I’ve been a registered lobbyist in Montana, and I’ve learned over that time – often through trial and error – to never assume one legislative body is like any that preceded it.

The political makeup didn’t change that much after the November election, with Republicans still holding (and gaining) majorities in both houses. But the atmosphere and tenor have already taken on a tone all their own. While there is some consistency with the return of veterans, there’s also a growing batch of newcomers; political novices whose newness to the legislative process leaves a lot of us … well … frankly, guessing what will happen, until we get to know them a little better.

As reported in my last column, the Montana Newspaper Association entered the 2017 session with a small list of priority bills, including a minor clean-up to last session’s reorganization of public-records laws, a bill to clarify booking photos are public records, and a bill to ensure the general public has a right to record the meetings of public boards.

The first two bills are already moving forward. House Bill 221, sponsored by Rep. Don Jones, was requested by the MNA to delete outdated language regarding public records requirements of municipalities. The language was intended to have been repealed last session upon adoption of HB123, but was missed. This clean-up bill fixes that. It passed House Local Government on a unanimous vote and passed second reading 97-1. We expect it will have little opposition moving forward.

Having said that, see my previous paragraph about still getting used to the tone of the session.

Our third bill has yet to be drafted into final form, but we expect that to occur soon. It would simply clarify that the general public, not just “accredited media,” have the right to record meetings of public boards.

In addition to our own bills, the MNA has been actively monitoring several others, including Senate Bill 2, which we contend would create a loophole for county commissions to meet in secret with special interest groups. Along with the Montana Broadcasters Association, we opposed this bill before the Senate Local Government Committee. Unfortunately, committee members seemed swayed by arguments that this bill will make the job of being a county commissioner easier, and they voted this out of committee 6-3 on January 18th. We will continue our efforts to kill this bill, although we know given the outreach county commissioners have made to their legislators that this will be an uphill battle. But the MNA and the Montana Broadcasters Association believe strongly that this bill is clear violation of the public meeting laws and an affront to constitutional right of the public to be involved in the activities of their government.

We continue to monitor the legislative process for other bills that could affect newspapers or public access. Sen. Fred Thomas has two bills in the works dealing with public records, including one intended to give some “enforcement” capabilities to the secretary of state regarding public records laws. The MNA has had several conversations with Sen. Thomas about his legislation, but at the time of this writing, both bills are still in draft form.
The Montana Freedom of Information Hotline in 2016 responded to a near record-high 223 inquiries on public meetings and access to public documents, year-end statistics show. The Hotline’s attorney, Peter “Mike” Meloy of Helena answered questions from 111 citizens and 112 print and broadcast journalists.

Those figures don’t include informational calls logged to the Hotline’s board chairwoman, Melody Martinsen, nor do they include the many calls Meloy fielded during the year from journalists, seeking quotes from him on open public meetings and public records issues that arose during the year.

While the need for the Hotline is clear, the funding for the nonprofit organization is more tenuous now than it has been in the past decade. In past years, the Hotline has relied heavily on $4,000 to $5,000 in annual operating funds from grants through the National Freedom of Information Coalition with a 100% hard match from the Hotline.

In 2015, however, the NFOIC stopped offering those grants. Since then, Montana’s media has stepped up and given generously to keep the Hotline up and running. In 2016, the Hotline was particularly fortunate to receive a $5,500 grant from the Lee Newspapers Endowment Fund of the Montana Community Foundation to fund the Hotline’s budget of about $11,000 a year, the majority of which pays for the Hotline attorney’s steeply-discounted services.

The Hotline needs the financial support of Montana’s print, broadcast and digital media to remain viable. Although the Hotline would be grateful for any contribution from the state’s news organizations, the suggested donation levels for 2017 are $62.50 for weekly newspapers and radio stations, $125 for small daily/ large weekly newspapers, $150 for TV stations, $250 for medium dailies, and $375 for large dailies.

In January, the Hotline mailed out donation requests to all the members of the Montana Newspaper Association and the Montana Broadcasters Association. “Please watch for these requests and help support the Hotline with your donation,” Hotline board Chairwoman Melody Martinsen said. Martinsen is the editor and co-owner of the Choteau Acantha weekly newspaper.

The suggested donation amounts are truly a bargain for news organizations, especially if any given newspaper’s or broadcaster’s reporters have to make more than one call a year to the Hotline. The going rate for 30 minutes of advice from an attorney is about $200, but a contribution to the Hotline gives reporters and editors unlimited access to a highly specialized public access attorney who has years of experience working with Montana’s access statutes and case law.

Additionally, the contributions from Montana’s news media help ensure that Meloy’s services will be available to members of the public so that they have somewhere to go to get their access questions answered. By helping to fund the hotline, Montana’s news organizations stand up for citizens and help fulfill their critical duty as members of the Fourth Estate.

Meloy can be reached at 406-442-8670 — or by email at mike@meloylawfirm.com — or through the online query form at www.montanafoi.org. The Hotline provides a wallet card with the Hotline’s contact information and a pocket guide to Montana’s FOI laws, available for download from the website. Montana’s journalists are also encouraged to “like” the Montana Freedom of Information Hotline’s Facebook page at: facebook.com/montanafoi/.

“As a self-employed journalist in Montana for the past 27 years, I know firsthand that our budgets are tight, but one of the main reasons we exist as journalists is to defend the public’s right to know. Supporting the Hotline is a vital link to that effort,” Martinsen said. “I hope that all of Montana’s news media will be able to make a contribution in any amount to support the mission of the Hotline.”

News organizations can send contributions to Hotline Treasurer Clemens P. Work, 5055 Huckleberry Road, Missoula, MT 59803. Donations can also be made via credit card on the FOI website by clicking on the “donate” link on the upper right side of the Home page.

For more information on the Hotline or how to contribute, contact Martinsen at 406-466-2403 or email her at acantha@3rivers.net. Other members of the Hotline’s board of directors are: Vice Chairman Jon Stepanek, KTVQ TV in Billings; Secretary Jackie Yamanaka with Yellowstone Public Radio in Billings and Helena; Montana Newspaper Association Executive Director Jim Rickman, Montana Broadcasters Association CEO Dewey Bruce, Matt Volz with the Associated Press, Charles S. Johnson with the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Lee Banville with the University of Montana School of Journalism and Gary Moseman, retired managing editor of the Great Falls Tribune.
EDITOR POSITION

Want to put your journalism experience to use for a family-owned weekly newspaper in a stunningly beautiful Oregon community? This is your opportunity.

The Wallowa County Chieftain is seeking an editor who believes in the value of community journalism. Topics include outdoor recreation, forest health, water supply and wildlife habitat, in addition to coverage of small-town life.

The Chieftain is located in Enterprise, Oregon, just an hour away from La Grande and three hours from Boise. The community has deep agricultural roots and a growing arts community. The location offers year-round recreational opportunities, including backpacking, camping, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling and horseback riding.

We seek an energetic, creative, outgoing and hard-working editor. This is your opportunity to join a company that believes in community journalism. The Chieftain is a weekly newspaper in eastern Oregon and is part of EO Media Group, an award-winning and innovative news organization with an active family of owners.

We seek a journalist who is passionate about local news, excited about the opportunity to publish in print, on line and with social media. You’ll manage and mentor two newsroom employees and work with a professional page design team. Your journalistic integrity is a must. Leadership, budgeting, multi-media and mentoring experience are a plus. This is a hands-on position that edits and writes stories; takes photos; posts daily to our web site; and uses social media to engage readers. Along with the Chieftain’s publisher, you will need to be involved in the community.

EO Media Group owns 11 newspapers and 17 websites that provide accurate, fair and timely reporting about the people and issues impacting the communities we serve in the Pacific Northwest, reflecting the responsibility and spirit of a free press.

Competitive pay plus paid time off, 401(k) /401(k) Roth retirement plan and insurances.

Candidates with an education in journalism or a related field, plus leadership experience, should send resume and letter of interest to EO Media Group, PO Box 2048, Salem, OR 97308-2048, by fax to 503-371-2935 or e-mail hr@eomediagroup.com

Back to cover the session in 2017

By Phil Drake, Great Falls Tribune

From the dome to your home. Ramblings, mutterings, keen observations and things you ought to know out of Helena from the mind of Phil Drake.

OPENING SALVO: It’s been quite a week down here in Helena as the 65th Legislature begins.

I’ve been filing most of my stories from Room 52B in the basement, or, as I like to say: “From deep in the bowels of the Capitol.”

It’s Spartan conditions, but I am not complaining. I am glad the state provides it. But let me just say there was something of a collective cheer when they provided a coat rack and had a janitor empty an overflowing trash can.

Well, maybe I am exaggerating.

Phil Drake
In Memorium

Rose Marie (Susie) Farr

Susie passed away on December 15, 2016, with her family by her side. She was born in Los Angeles on June 26, 1945. She was part of the second graduating class of Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights, California, where she met and married her high school sweetheart, Arthur (Gene) Farr. They were married on August 16, 1963. They had two children, Tracy and Michael. Fed up with the hustle and bustle of big city life, Gene and Susie moved their family to Helena in 1978.

Susie started her career with the IR in August of 1978. She worked most of her career as a creative designer for the newspaper, and even after she was promoted to manager of the pre-press department, she continued to build ads, paginate classifieds and lay out the paper. Although Susie “retired” in 1999, the IR brought her back three additional times to fill in for various open positions in the creative process of the newspaper.

Susie always came to work with a smile on her face. She had a great attitude and was a hard worker. When tensions were high and deadlines were approaching, Susie would always crack the whip with the sales team, but after the edition was sent to press, she’d be there with words of encouragement and a friendly pat on the back for a job well done.

During Susie’s career at the IR, she touched many lives, developed many friendships and she will be greatly missed by many.

Susie enjoyed retirement traveling with her husband Gene in their motor home. They always seemed to end up someplace interesting, fun, and warm. Often, her travels were with her sister Kathryn and brother-in-law Frank, although her favorite trips were to Solvang, California, with both her sisters, Kathryn and Kathleen.

Susie often broke out singing a song to fit any occasion. We think she’s singing “I did it my way.”

Walter M. Wick

The former publisher of Arizona’s Sierra Vista Herald, who with his brother grew Wick Communications into a media company with publications in 11 states, has died. He was 85.

Walter M. Wick died Christmas morning at his home in Hereford. He had pancreatic cancer.

His brother, Robert Wick, told the Herald that he was “as blessed as any brother could be with Walter’s presence in my life.”

The brothers bought their uncle’s interest in the company in 1965. They took over full ownership when their father died in 1981. Their father, Milton Wick, and uncle, James, founded the company when they acquired the family’s first newspaper in 1926 in Niles, Ohio.

“We at times had our differences but we each knew our love transcended all problems,” Robert Wick said Tuesday. “In my life this great soul is passed but his reverberation will ripple throughout all those who have known him.”

Wick Communications is based in Sierra Vista, Arizona, and also publishes newspapers in Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon and South Dakota, including the Sidney Herald in Montana.

Family members still run the company, with Walter’s daughter, Rebecca Rogers, serving on the company’s board of directors and nephew Francis Wick serving as the president and CEO. Daughter Pat Wick is the assistant general manager at the Herald/Review.

Walter Wick was a member of the Arizona Newspaper Association Hall of Fame and was publisher emeritus of the Herald and the Bisbee Daily Review newspapers.

Wick was born in Youngstown, Ohio, on Feb. 4, 1931, and grew up in Niles, Ohio, before attending Kent State University and the University of Minnesota. He began his newspaper career as publisher of the Niles Daily Times and later was publisher of the Williston (ND) Daily Herald. He moved to Sierra Vista in 1974 and became publisher of the Herald. He and his brother were co-chairmen of Wick News, Inc. for many years.

Montana Journalism Job & Internship Fair

You are invited to the 5th Annual Montana Journalism Job & Internship Fair.
The event will be held in Don Anderson Hall on the University of Montana campus on Friday, March 10.
The fair provides an excellent opportunity to interview our talented students for internships and jobs.
When you RSVP to Cameron Bucheit, please detail the positions you may be looking to fill so students can be matched with your relevant needs.
Students are interested in positions in news, production, promotion, web and social media, marketing and design.
Please RSVP by Friday, February 17, by sending Cameron Bucheit an email at cameron.bucheit@mso.umt.edu
Three University of Montana School of Journalism students are in Helena covering the 2017 Legislature for scores of broadcasters and editors across the state. The session began Jan. 2.

Michael Siebert is providing weekly coverage to print and online publications. Siebert, a junior in the Journalism School and originally from Billings, was managing print editor of the Montana Kaimin before moving to Helena to cover the session. The Montana Newspaper Association helps fund Siebert’s coverage.

Cole Grant and Freddy Monares are producing daily reports for broadcast newsrooms. Grant is a senior at the Journalism School from Atlanta, Georgia. He has worked with Montana Public Radio and has been featured on Yellowstone Public Radio.

Monares is a multimedia journalist from East Los Angeles, California. He is a senior at the University of Montana and has interned at the Big Timber Pioneer and Montana Public Radio and has been featured on the websites of the Missoula Independent and the Missoulian.

The broadcast coverage is made possible by grants from the Greater Montana Foundation and the Montana Broadcasters Association.

The 2017 session marks the thirteenth time journalism students have covered Montana’s regular biennial legislative sessions for newspapers.

“The Montana Newspaper Association is excited to again partner with the UM School of Journalism to provide our member newspapers, and their readers, coverage of the 2017 Montana Legislative Assembly,” said Jim Rickman, executive director of the Montana Newspaper Association. “This is an excellent opportunity for students to experience the dynamics of reporting on our legislative process. Their coverage delivers essential content to our newspaper and digital audience.”

This is the sixth time UM Journalism School students have provided coverage for broadcasters.

“The Legislative News Service provides MBA members with important current news and information on Montana’s Legislature, in addition to training future news broadcasters,” said Dewey Bruce, president and CEO of the Montana Broadcasters Association. “It’s a fantastic service.”

The program is overseen again this session by Visiting Professor Courtney Lowery Cowgill, a UM Journalism School graduate who started her career by covering the Montana state government for Lee Newspapers and later The Associated Press. She is the editor of MediaShift and the former managing editor of NewWest.Net.

“There is no better training ground for watchdog journalism than the halls of the Capitol,” Cowgill said. “And, as it turns out, it’s also a great place for our students to learn the ins and outs of entrepreneurial journalism as they experiment with the best ways to deliver news to a diverse audience on a wide variety of platforms across the state.”

Newspapers can sign up to receive the reports here or bookmark this folder containing the reports.

Newspapers interested in receiving the coverage can also email Cowgill at courtney.cowgill@umontana.edu or call 406-531-4794.

Sidney Herald announces improved service plan

By Bill Vander Weele

The Sidney Herald is beginning a new era on Jan. 21 that will provide its readers with news that is more timely, along with overall improved customer service.

On Jan. 21, the Herald will start having a “weekend edition” that comes out on Saturdays instead of the traditional Sunday issue. The date will also begin the Herald replacing carrier service with mail service in Sidney.

“Due to the incredibly high cost of newspaper carrier delivery, we will be putting the newspapers in the mail each day for the Post Office to deliver it along with your mail,” Stephanie Spiess, publisher of the Sidney Herald, said. “You will still get the newspaper the same day it publishes; however, it will arrive when your mail arrives.”

Spiess thanks the carriers for their service to the Herald, and she appreciates the local Post Office for its positive reception regarding Sidney’s residents receiving their Herald in the same day mail. “By making these important changes, it will ensure that we can continue to keep the newspaper subscription rates affordable,” she said.

The Wednesday edition will arrive in the mail on Wednesdays.

Bill Vander Weele, editor of the Sidney Herald, said the change is a positive for readers.

“It pretty much means that readers will receive their news a day earlier than before,” Vander Weele said. “Instead of waiting until Sunday, readers will have the most recent news, including Friday night sports coverage, already on Saturdays.”
Last year at this time I decided to focus on a topic that affected my beat as a crime reporter. I spent my first year as a Great Falls Tribune reporter learning about the “cops” side of my “cops and courts” beat.

I thought about a story I’d written over the summer about drugs in Great Falls. A local prosecutor mentioned at the child abuse community forum that the majority of felony cases filed in Cascade County had a link to substance abuse.

It reminded me of something I’d heard Judge Greg Pinski say about how naive he was about drugs in Great Falls as a new judge.

“Eighty to 90 percent of the cases I deal with fall under four categories,” Pinski said. “One: people using drugs. Two: people dealing drugs. Three: people committing crimes while they’re on drugs. Or four: people committing crimes to get drugs.”

I decided the story I wrote about “drugs haunting every corner of the city” deserved more attention and column inches in the paper. I pitched the idea of a monthly series to my editors, and they liked it.

The series started with a couple of story ideas from Pinski about things going on in Veterans Treatment Court and Adult Drug Treatment Court. I wrote the stories about Frank Damon and Ryan Haman.

I applied to attend a fellowship program in Baltimore about the opioids epidemic and was accepted.

I returned, more inspired than ever, to educate the community about our piece of the epidemic that sends children into foster care and keeps police officers, probation officers, judges, court clerks and jail staff overworked and stretched thin.

I came back convinced that drug abuse is a public health crisis that is burdening our criminal justice system. I wanted to share all that I learned about the nature of addiction as a chronic, relapsing brain disease as opposed to a moral deficiency.

The Tribune supported my endeavor with a spot on the front page every month and offered editing that made me a better storyteller.

As I wrote each installment, I grew more passionate about the topic, so when an administrative position with the treatment courts was added, I applied for the job, and I got it.

I can’t wait to join Pinski on the Treatment Court team, but saying goodbye to my colleagues at the Tribune and my life as a journalist is bittersweet.

Breaking down the judicial system for our readers brought me great pride. I will miss the stacks of court documents on my desk that are waiting to be filed.

But I feel I have been called to advocate and contribute to programs I believe will make our community better by making its citizens better.

I want to thank everyone at the Tribune for their support and encouragement.

I also need to thank the countless sources who made my job as a crime reporter more enjoyable than anyone could imagine.

Finally, I’d like to thank the readers for taking in what I’ve written and for clicking on my stories. Thank you for staying informed about what is going on in our community.

Butte Weekly to begin new year with new owner

By Annie Pentilla, Montana Standard

Butte Weekly editor and owner Robin Jordan says she and her husband David Jordan are selling the oldest continuously operating weekly newspaper in the Mining City after two years of ownership.

Jordan made the announcement in the paper’s Dec. 28 edition, in which she named former Anaconda Leader graphic designer Linda Anderson as the operation’s new owner.

Anderson will take the helm after the new year and Jordan will stay on as editor, the article says.

Anderson, a Butte native with a BA in art from Montana State University, has worn a variety of hats throughout her career.

She began working at Butte’s YMCA at age 18 as a lifeguard and eventually became the organization’s aquatic and marketing director.

About seven years ago, she said, she held a graphic design position at The Montana Standard and went on to similar positions at the Anaconda Leader and the Butte Weekly.

When asked why she decided to purchase the small, indie publication, Anderson said she wants to continue a tradition that’s been going on since 1997, when the newspaper was founded by Virgil Boehler as a free source for what’s going on in Butte.

“I want to see it grow and I want to continue to give our community local news,” Anderson told The Standard Wednesday morning.

Anderson, whose husband, Robert Anderson, will also have part ownership, said she’ll be coming to her new position armed with ideas and a fresh perspective.

Continued on Page 10

January 27, 2017
**People and Papers**

**Weekly** Continued from Page 9

In the editorial section, she said, she’d like to see more voices from throughout the political spectrum and all walks of life. In addition to growing the paper’s local sports coverage, she said she’s also thinking of partnering with resorts and a local restaurant to increase recreational and lifestyle content.

In her Dec. 28 article, Jordan said the paper will continue its relationship with the independent columnists that help create its content. The new mailing address for the newspaper is P.O. Box 4898, Butte, MT 59702. The phone number will remain the same: (406)782-3820.

Anderson said she will oversee the paper by working remotely, but has plans to move the weekly to a new office once she gets settled in her new role.

As for Jordan, she said she and her husband decided to sell because they want to take on more of an auxiliary role.

“My husband and I are not exactly spring chickens,” said Jordan, noting that she and her husband want to shed the stress that goes along with owning a business.

Although Jordan has owned the paper for a little over two years, her history with the Butte Weekly goes back further.

She started in 2007 as a salesperson and became co-editor a year later. In 2013, Jordan was named Butte Weekly’s managing editor when the longtime editor and former Standard editor, Rick Foote, died. In 2014, Jordan said, she and her husband decided to purchase the paper from Norlene Holt because they wanted to “keep it going as a local alternative newspaper.”

Although she’ll miss interaction with customers at the Butte Weekly’s Main Street office, Jordan said she believes she’s leaving the paper in good hands with Anderson, whom she described as knowledgeable and “very energetic.”

“She’s familiar with what local newspapers need to do and should do,” said Jordan. “I think she’s got a lot of ambition and good ideas.”

**2017 MNA Master Editor/Publisher and Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame nomination forms**

Now is your chance to spotlight your fellow newspaper professionals for their accomplishments in Montana journalism by nominating them for the **2017 Montana Master Editor/Publisher Award** or nominating them for induction into the **Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame**.

- The deadline to submit your nominations is Friday, March 31, 2017.
- Instructions for accessing nomination forms are listed below.
- Return your completed forms by mail to MNA, 825 Great Northern Blvd., Ste. 202, Helena, MT 59601 or email jim@mtnewspapers.com
- Awards will be presented during the 132nd Annual MNA Convention at the Yogo Inn, Lewistown, Montana.


Past recipients of the Master Editor/Publisher Award: [http://www.mtnewspapers.com/master-editorpublisher-award-winners-2/](http://www.mtnewspapers.com/master-editorpublisher-award-winners-2/)


If you have questions, please contact:

Jim Rickman
Executive Director
406-443-2850
jim@mtnewspapers.com

**MNA Bill Tracker**

Would you like to follow what the MNA is tracking at the 2017 Legislative Assembly?

**Step 1:**
Click on:

**Step 2:**
Scroll down to ‘Preference Account Login’
The login is: NEWSPAPERS (all caps)
The password is: Newspapers70

**Step 3:**
You’ll find a page stating ‘Welcome JOHN MACDONALD’ (our MNA Lobbyist). Near the middle of the page, click on ‘Newspaper Bills.’ This should take you to the bills being tracked by the MNA.
Congratulations to our Top Statewide Ad Producers of 2016

2016 was another great year for our member-owned statewide advertising programs.

Congratulations to our top newspapers!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Display Ad Producers</th>
<th>Number of Ads Sold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellowstone County News</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow Courier</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choteau Acantha</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurel Outlook</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stillwater County News</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Classified Ad Producers</th>
<th>Number of Ads Sold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurel Outlook</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitterroot Star</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stillwater County News</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewistown News-Argus</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All MNA Professional Members have an opportunity to participate in our statewide advertising offerings.

The programs provide your customers the extended reach of our huge Montana print and digital audience at an incredible value. No other media can match the distribution and value of our advertising programs. Your newspaper benefits financially from the sale and a quarterly shared dividend program as approved by the Montana Newspaper Advertising Service board of directors.

For more information on our statewide advertising programs, please contact Stacy Wirtz at 443-2850 or stacy@mtnewspapers.com.
Advise from the Experts

Across the ages: Newspapers still deliver

From Nielsen

Ever hear the phrase “print is dead”? Well if you check with almost 170 million Americans, they’d tell you that nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, a recent Nielsen Scarborough study found that more than 169 million adults in the U.S. read a newspaper in a month—whether it be in print, on a website or via mobile app. In total, newspapers reach 69% of the U.S. population in a given month.

Newspapers remain largely a print medium, but the dramatic growth in digital media in recent years has compelled newspaper publishers to re-think their distribution models and become multi-platform content providers. According to the recent study, 81% of monthly newspaper readers engage with the print product, with 51% reading print exclusively. The remaining 49% reads a newspaper on at least one digital platform, with 30% reading both digital and print.

Traditionally, newspaper audiences have been more educated, affluent and older than non-newspaper readers. As digital media have gained in prominence, newspapers have attracted younger readers. Newspaper readers are still educated and affluent, but their ages are more reflective of the general population than they have been in the past. For example, 13% of the U.S. population is 70 or older, and this age group now accounts for 15% of the total monthly newspaper audience.

Compared to previous decades, younger readers now account for a greater percentage of newspaper readers. Notably, Millennials 21-34 make up 25% of the U.S. population and now represent 24% of the total monthly newspaper readership. Based on the shift in age of the newspaper reader, it’s clear that the newspaper industry’s adoption of digital distribution has allowed it to reach adults of all ages.

Despite their growing appeal among younger readers through digital channels, newspapers still maintain an educated and affluent audience. Readers, whether print or digital, are still more likely to be college graduates and have annual household incomes over $100,000 than non-readers. And by broadening their distribution to digital channels, many newspapers have attracted digital readers, who represent an even more affluent and educated segment of readers. In fact, digital newspaper paper readers are 49% more likely than the general adult population to be a college graduate and 43% more likely to have household incomes over $100,000.

There’s no doubt that the newspaper industry has seen its fair share of change and evolution over the past decade or so, some of which has resulted in a loss of confidence from agencies, marketers and even researchers. But based on the recent Nielsen Scarborough survey, it’s clear that newspapers remain a thriving and viable medium, and they continue to engage a larger portion of younger, affluent readers.

Update on Overtime Rule

By L. Michael Zinser, President | The Zinser Law Firm, P.C.

This writer reported recently that, on November 22, 2016, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas issued a nationwide injunction halting the planned December 1, 2016 effective date of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Overtime Rule.

The Department of Labor has now appealed the nationwide preliminary injunction. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit will hear the appeal on an expedited basis. Briefing of the issue will be complete by January 31, 2017 – 11 days after the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

Separately, Congress may revoke the Overtime Rule under the Congressional Review Act. Congress adjourned on December 9, 2016, meaning it had less than 60 legislative days after the Rule was made final. Thus, under the Congressional Review Act, Congress will be given another 45 days in the new legislative session to vote to disapprove the Rule.

If Congress passes a resolution disapproving the final Overtime Rule within the 45-day period, and President Trump then signs the resolution, the Overtime Rule is dead. Congress could also pass a separate law nullifying the Overtime Rule.

Additionally, the Trump administration could withdraw the appeal of the preliminary injunction. President Elect Trump’s Secretary of Labor nominee, Andrew Puzder, is almost certainly opposed to the final Overtime Rule.
Advertising and Public Notices Management will be the focus of upcoming webinars

The educational webinars are brought to you as a member service of the Montana Newspaper Association, in conjunction with the Iowa Newspaper Foundation.

For more information about each webinar, and to register, go to http://www.onlinemediacampus.com/webinars/

An advanced registration of $35 is required to avoid paying a late fee.

We encourage members to make the webinars a group educational event by gathering around a single monitor or projected image to take advantage of the one registration fee. Please allow a few minutes for discussion after the training.

Advanced registration will allow you to view the webinars at any time after the presentation date.

Friday, February 24 – Successfully Negotiating on Value and Price
The program will be a fast-paced session focused on these three key skills:
Negotiate smarter, not harder
Negotiate on value, not on price
Win more and lose less on sales

Category: Advertising, Presenter: Daniel Grissom

Thursday, March 2 – Best Practices for Public Notices
The newspaper industry has had a lot of success protecting public notice in the state legislatures, but collectively we’re on the defensive. Our opponents are more motivated than ever and increasingly sophisticated in their arguments. Every newspaper must play a role in this fight. This session will focus on the state of public notice and the best practices that every publisher should follow to help the industry maintain its rightful position as the publisher of official notice of public actions.

Category: Management, Presenter: Richard Karpel, president of APW