This mountain goat at the Hidden Lake Overlook in Glacier National Park was licking salt from the railing of the overlook. As thousands of people a day visit the area, sweat from their hands and arms leaves salt on the wood.

The Overlook at Logan Pass is one of the most popular hikes in Glacier.

Photo was taken with a Leica M9.
### MNA Calendar

**June**
- 30 Deadline to order duplicate plaques from the 2015 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

**July**
- 1 Annual deadline to submit a Sworn Statement of Circulation to the county clerk and recorder
- 3 The MNA office will be closed for the Independence Day holiday
- 17 Deadline to submit articles for the July Press Pass

**August**
- 21 Deadline to submit articles for the August Press Pass

**September**
- 4 National Newspaper Carrier Day
- 7 Labor Day, MNA office will be closed
- 25 MNA & MNAS Board of Directors’ meeting, U of M School of Journalism, Missoula

**October**
- 1 Deadline to file USPS Statement of Ownership, Management & Circulation Form 3526

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### Thanks

It was a busy month at your MNA with many members, friends and stakeholders to thank.

- To Dewy Bruce, Montana Broadcasters Association; Eric Hyyppa, Montana PBS, and Mike Meloy and Ian Marquand for successful completion of the Open Government training webinars.
- To all of you who supported the Greg Corr Fund raffle; to Scott Turner, Billings Times, for donating the raffle tickets, and to Melody and Jeff Martinsen, Choteau Acantha, for the donation of the “Newsboy” statue.
- To our outgoing MNA board director and past president, Tom Eggensperger, Sanders County Ledger, and MNAS board director Paul Overlie, Liberty County Times. We appreciate the many years of service and leadership to our association.
- To our outgoing MNA president, Cindy Sease, Bozeman Daily Chronicle, for the advancements you made to our association this past year.
- To the presenters who made our 130th annual convention a success: Holly Michels, Billings Gazette; Dick Crockford, Dillon Tribune; Cindy Sease, Bozeman Daily Chronicle; Lori Pederson and Deanna Satre, Edge Marketing + Design; Eve Byron and Zach Holden, National Institute on Money in State Politics; Ron Reason, consultant; Gregory Hinton, author; Greg Rachac, Billings Gazette; Kev Campbell, MNA; John Cribb, Carbon County News; Jeff Avgeris, Pioneer Newspapers, and Peter Fox.
MEMBER PROFILE

CAROL CRITTENDON
Publisher, Sidney Herald

Personal Stats:
Born (year & place):
1966, Lewiston, NY (a suburb of Niagara Falls)

First newspaper job:
Recruitment sales rep, King County Journal Newspapers, Bellevue, WA

Family:
Daughter, Amelia (a very precocious 7-year-old who will be 8 in July)

Education:
Bachelor of Arts, Journalism/Mass Communications, University of Northern Colorado

Community involvement and diversions:
Board of Directors, Boys and Girls Club of Richland County. Plus, I love to sing Karaoke!

How did your career lead you to where you are now?
My career has been all about revenue. Whether it was as a sales representative, classified manager, ad director and now publisher, there has been a focus on driving revenue. There have been some really tough years, and tough spots in my career because of it. I think it has made me stronger personally and professionally.

What's the most important thing you learned along the way that prepared you for your current role?
I can never underestimate the power of saying, “I’m sorry, it’s my fault.” There is so much power in that phrase. That was an incredibly hard lesson for me to learn, but I have learned that the repercussions of accepting blame and responsibility for my actions and the actions of those who work for me are never as bad as I expect them to be.

What aspect of the job do you find the most rewarding?
I love our role in the community. We aren’t a utility, but the public acts as if we are. We are able to bring events to people. We are able to bring joy and sorrow to our readers. We are able to give them a great customer service experience every day. Seeing joy on others’ faces and knowing that your business helped put it there, that’s priceless.

What aspect of the job do you find the most challenging?
I get frustrated when others demonstrate a lack of vision. I always want to improve, to grow, to be something better tomorrow than we were yesterday.

What have you done to enhance the brand of your newspaper in your area?
I think that my own community involvement and the involvement of my newspaper in community events is crucial. We are a large, thriving part of the community and our presence at events is necessary to demonstrate that.

What is your digital strategy right now?
Funny you should ask. I am the co-chair for the Wick Communications Digital Strategic Task Force. Our mission is to define the digital strategy for the entire company. Along those lines, we will be focusing on what we can do to bring digital products to our advertisers and public who don’t have them. Our biggest objection in a small market is: “I don’t have a website.” Many advertisers still don’t really understand the technology. We want to be able to bring them a cost-effective solution. Additionally, we want to focus on digital marketing, whether that is email campaigns, banner ads, native advertising or social media. We’re here to be their marketing solution, not just their print solution.

What is your print strategy right now?
I want to put out the best damned newspaper of which we are capable. Every time. I want to grow our revenue by making sure we are not leaving customers untouched. I want to continue to be the best news source in my community.

How does the MNA serve you and your newspaper?
MNA has been beneficial to us this year alone by helping us work with a public entity to understand the open meetings laws better. Plus, having an advocate at the state level keeps us relevant in today’s marketplace.
As the final preparations were being made for this year’s Montana Newspaper Association annual convention, Cindy Sease kept reminding me that the office of association president is definitely “a working position.”

She repeated that phrase so many times that it started making me nervous. I could see how much time and effort she put into leading our organization during the past year, culminating with a great three-day convention in Big Sky. All I could think about was that I hope I can serve the association as well as she has.

From my perspective, we’ve made significant progress as an association during the past 12 months. We began the process of digitally archiving member newspapers, we co-hosted a congressional debate, staff computers and bookkeeping software were upgraded, and we launched a statewide public notices website that now contains nearly 100 percent of the public notices that appear in member newspapers.

In addition, the association hired lobbyist John MacDonald to represent newspaper issues at the 2015 legislative session so that we could be more closely involved in lawmakers’ decisions that affect such things as public records access, open meetings and publication requirements of legal notices.

The MNA Legal Affairs Committee spent many hours guiding our legislative efforts under the leadership of Jan Anderson, who recently stepped down from her role as the committee chairman after many years of guiding our legislative efforts. The consensus of the committee and the board of directors was that we were able to defeat several bills and revise others that would have had a negative impact on our industry. We also supported bills that updated and reorganized the state’s open meeting laws and strengthened the reporter “shield law.”

The association’s dues structure was also reviewed and streamlined to give newspapers a more accurate forecast of upcoming charges. Those of us on the board, as well as the MNA staff, recognize how important it is to communicate openly and effectively regarding the association’s billing, particularly as our dues increase next year as part of a two-phase increase that was approved in 2013.

All of these accomplishments will make our association stronger so that we will be poised to rise above challenges that arise in the future. I hope you all join me in thanking Cindy and the rest of our dedicated board members for serving this association with such professionalism and enthusiasm.

Lastly, I want to recognize the great staff of people at the MNA office in Helena who have demonstrated a deep commitment to our industry and each individual member. Without their expertise, the job of leading this association would be exponentially more difficult.

Matt Bunk
Montana Newspaper Association President

Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame Induction

Lyle Williams was born on December 3, 1900, on his family’s homestead near Willow Creek, MT. Williams’ grandfather homesteaded in the area in 1866. His father was one of the discoverers of the Lewis & Clark Caverns.

Lyle was a journalism student at the University of Montana when he heard The Herald in Three Forks, MT, was being sold by Paul A. Dorsey. Williams purchased the newspaper while completing his degree and published his first edition on June 9, 1927.

Lyle Williams’ tenure at The Herald lasted 42 years. He sold the newspaper in 1969. During that time, Lyle formed the Intermountain Press Association, a corporate entity of his journalistic empire, which at the time included The Herald, The Belgrade Journal, The Manhattan Intermountain Press and Ennis Wrangler. Lyle was an innovator, seeing his geographic location between Yellowstone and Glacier Parks as the perfect opportunity to capture the growing tourism industry audience. In the early 1930’s, Lyle founded the Western Parks Trailsman, the first free-distribution tourist-oriented newspaper in Montana. Williams operated this massive undertaking until 1968.

Lyle understood newspaper audiences like few publishers do. He was ahead of his time with the concept of group publishing, shared resources, offering a single advertising buy with the reach of multiple products and niche publishing.

By 1969, Williams had sold his newspapers, but continued to be active in his other career as a Gallatin County Justice of the Peace, a job he held for 17 years. He also served as City Court Judge in Three Forks.

His court office was in The Herald building, where he often performed marriage ceremonies and other court business. In 1976, Williams published “Historically Speaking,” based on his newspaper columns.

Lyle K. Williams died on May 15, 1990, at the age of 89.

Andy Malby, publisher of the Three Forks Herald, nominated Lyle K. Williams for induction.
## Montana Newspaper Association Officers and Board of Directors

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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Matt Bunk</td>
<td>The Western News, Libby</td>
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<td>1st Vice President</td>
<td>Jacques Rutten</td>
<td>Lewistown News-Argus</td>
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<td>2nd Vice President</td>
<td>Darla Downs</td>
<td>The Herald-News, Wolf Point</td>
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<td>3rd Vice President</td>
<td>Kyle Rickhoff</td>
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<td>Immediate Past President</td>
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<td>Bozeman Daily Chronicle</td>
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<td>Director</td>
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## Montana Newspaper Advertising Service Officers and Board of Directors

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<td>Director</td>
<td>Tyler Miller</td>
<td>Independent Record, Helena</td>
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<td>Director</td>
<td>Bina Eggenperger</td>
<td>Sanders County Ledger, Thompson Falls</td>
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## Montana Newspaper Foundation Officers and Board of Directors

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<td>Melody Martinsen</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
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<td>Secretary/Treasurer</td>
<td>Jim Rickman</td>
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<td>Director</td>
<td>John Sullivan</td>
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### Stacy Mantle joins Montana Newspaper Association Board of Directors

Stacy Mantle was born and raised in Havre. She graduated from Northern Montana College (MSU-Northern) with a graphic design degree. She has been in the newspaper business for the past 15 years, which includes the past three years at her current position as publisher at the Havre Daily News. She currently is involved in the community as a member of the Havre Crimestoppers Committee, MSU-Northern Alumni Foundation’s Alumni Committee, Havre Chamber Tourism Committee, co-chair for the last three years on the Havre Chamber Ambassadors Committee and director-at-large on the Havre Chamber Board of Directors. Stacy has been an active member of the Havre community. She and her husband, Bob, have two children, Reed and Rylin. In her free time she enjoys camping, golfing, watching Reed participate in sports and spending time with her family.

### Tyler Miller joins Montana Newspaper Advertising Service Board of Directors

Tyler is the regional publisher for the Helena Independent Record and Montana Standard in Butte. He lives in Helena with his wife and four children. Tyler has a passion for the newspaper industry and is excited to help the industry navigate the changes the digital age brings. Prior to moving to Montana, Tyler served as the publisher for the Daily Record in Ellensburg, Washington. He has also served as the ad director in Ellensburg and in Denver as a regional ad director over 14 weekly newspapers with Colorado Community Newspapers. In his spare time, Tyler enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, biking, hiking, fishing and enjoying the outdoors.
Brian Walton joins Dillon Tribune as intern

Brian Walton, a senior at the University of Montana School of Journalism in Missoula, is spending his summer here, honing his newspaper skills at the Dillon Tribune as an intern.

His main duties at the Tribune include general news and feature writing, as well as photography. An important part of his training involves getting to know the highlights and nuances of a rural Montana community that are the bread-and-butter of small-town newspapering.

He is already a deeply loyal Montanan. Originally from Charlottesville, Va., Walton, 25, left that state more than five years ago, moved to Missoula and is now rooted in Big Sky Country. Walton said he became interested in Montana after a teacher at his high school included him on a mailing list and he began receiving material about the state.

That exposure generated an interest that prompted him to make a visit in December 2009 to Missoula, where he enrolled at UM not long after, establishing full-time residency.

Walton’s interest in journalism stems from a desire to learn about people and places.

“I like to be well-informed,” he said. “I like to be able to get out and interact with people.” His desire for an opportunity to “better understand human nature” is being met here, Walton said.

“I love it here, so far.”

There is one minor drawback, he noted, having to do with the timing of his internship here for the summer, and that is the relative scarcity of other 20-somethings, now that the University of Montana Western is out of regular session until fall.

“I wish I were here when there were more students in town,” he said. Nonetheless, Walton said he is enjoying the town and its surroundings. Both during his work hours and in his off time, he can be seen pedaling his bicycle around Dillon.

In fact, he has managed to snag an opening that recently came available for the Ride Around the Pioneers in One Day (RATPOD) cycling event coming up at the end of the month. The bike has helped him get off to a good start seeing Dillon close up and getting to know folks on a more personal level.

“I’ve never lived in a town this small,” he said, adding that he is looking forward to typical Dillon activities. Always an admirer of the western lifestyle, Walton said he enjoys rodeo and is eagerly anticipating the availability of the same so close by in this part of the state.

He also enjoys fishing, camping and backpacking — just about anything that will get him out in nature. Following graduation from UM he hopes to pursue magazine journalism.

Describing himself as a “very impartial person,” he pledges to provide Tribune readers with fair coverage of local issues and interesting feature stories about local people.

Brian’s internship with the Dillon Tribune is sponsored in part by a grant from the Montana Newspaper Foundation.

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New circulation director for Bozeman Daily Chronicle

June 3, 2015 (Bozeman, MT) – Brant Horn has been named the circulation director for the Bozeman Daily Chronicle. Horn was most recently the circulation director for the Kalispell Daily Inter Lake, where he spent 14 years. Prior to that, Horn worked in circulation at other papers, including the Great Falls Tribune.

“The Chronicle couldn’t be happier to have someone of Brant’s caliber join our team,” said Stephanie Pressly, Chronicle publisher. “Brant’s knowledge, experience and integrity are hard to come by – we’re thrilled to have his skills working on behalf of our paper.”

Horn attended MSU, as does his son, who is the center for the Bobcat football team.
A 2015-2016 RJI Fellow wants to streamline the workflow in small- to mid-sized newsrooms by creating apps to assist journalists in their day-to-day tasks. These tasks could range from fact-checking and finding free images to creating immersive multimedia presentations and previewing mobile versions of their articles.

The project will put “big-media tools” into the hands of media professionals and freelancers who don’t have access to large programming teams, says Barrett Golding, a Web developer from Bozeman, Montana.

During his residential fellowship at the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute, Golding plans to release a suite of apps — Storytelling Tools — built to work within the WordPress content management system (CMS), which hosts thousands of news websites, says Golding.

“We want to go where journalists already are, rather than ask them to log in to a new service or download a new app,” he says.

Before building the suite of tools, Golding will survey news organizations to learn more about their digital workflow and identify areas most in need of improvement, then focus on making open-source plugins that serve those needs.

The next phase will test the plugins to optimize the user experience. Collaborators will include partners from the University of Missouri, RJI and several national journalism organizations. The testing will allow Golding and his team to refine the tools suite and prepare it for free public distribution.
I always get a buzz when I get that email that says, “(insert celebrity here) will be available to speak on this particular day and time.”

It’s happened for me more than 600 times in the past 12 years and it never gets old.

Last week, the buzz of the email alert on my phone had a different feel to it. I had a confirmation from David Letterman’s PR guy that the late-night celebrity would indeed be available to talk with me — a week to the day from filming his final show.

By the time the email came, I had already given up hope that he would agree to a phone visit. I had written and filed an entire story without direct quotes from Letterman, as it is well-known that he just doesn’t allow interviews.

He’s busy enough conducting them.

It’s not the first time I, or numerous other writers at the Tribune, had attempted to get Letterman on the phone. Ever since he moved into our region, people have been curious as to why he chose Montana and what he really thinks of the place.

Turns out he knows a thing or two about the Tribune and was happy to talk to us.

“I read the Great Falls Tribune every day when I’m in Montana,” he told me after I jokingly said, “It has to be one of the high points of your life to be interviewed by your hometown paper, the Great Falls Tribune.”

“I’m more than happy to be represented in the publication,” he added.

He asked about the weather and already knew the forecast for central Montana called for rain, despite being at the Ed Sullivan Theater in New York City.

The chat with Letterman was just the latest in a long line of interviews I’ve been grateful to conduct from right here in Great Falls.

Just last week, blues legend B.B. King passed on after spending 89 incredible years in this world.

In 2004, I was stoked to be approved for an interview with King prior to a performance in Bozeman. It was followed up with yet another interview in 2005 prior to a performance in Great Falls.

“All I can tell you is, I’m B.B. King and I do my show,” he told me in 2005. “Would do it for nothing if somebody would pay my bills.”

That was B.B. in a nutshell.

My only regret was turning down a chance to meet the man backstage when he played here. He arrived to the venue very late and I decided to take my seat for the opener (who I believe was a then little-known Gary Clark Jr.) instead of waiting around for a quick handshake with the legend.

The interviews over the years are too numerous to mention individually in this space. Let’s just say there have been a ton.

Some conversations I’ll never forget: Howie Mandel, Mark Hamill, Jim Belushi, George Takei, Juliette Lewis, Denis Leary, Mike Love, Paul Reubens, Rob Dyrdek and Jena Malone all stand out.

If you can think of a rock band that has played in the past 30 years, chances are I’ve interviewed someone who was in the band. And that’s not an exaggeration.

I’ve had engaging conversations with direct kin of long-gone legends. Ziggy Marley, Julian Lennon, Lisa Marie Presley, Hank Williams III and Deirdre Capone all offered me glimpses into the lives of their immortal relatives.

The interviews that stick with me most are ones where the artists aren’t around anymore: Pantera’s Dimebag Darrell Abbot, Avenged Sevenfold’s James Sullivan and Slipknot’s Paul Gary, to name a few.

And they’ve all graced the pages of our small-town Great Falls Tribune.

People always ask me, “How did you get that interview?” and the answer is always the same. I asked and they said yes. There’s a ton of luck involved and I’ve been crazy lucky over the years.

My friends have no doubt gotten tired of me blurting out, “I’ve interviewed this band,” whenever music is playing in the background and my children have no doubt gotten tired of hearing, “I’ve interviewed that guy,” while watching any number of movies or television shows.

Heck, I’m sure many of you are already tired of this article. But, as long as guys like David Letterman are willing to pick up a phone and call, I’ll be waiting on the other end of the line.

Patrick Douglas of Great Falls is a longtime correspondent for the Tribune and a novelist.
Stephanie Pressly earned her journalism degree from South Dakota State University in 1982. Greg
worked on many small newspapers in many small places such as Colorado, South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Alaska, to name a few. He last owned the Cascade Courier before buying the Whitehall Ledger in 2006.

Greg served on the board of directors of the Montana Newspaper Association, Jefferson Valley Community Foundation and Liberty Place.

The nomination for Greg Corr to receive the Master Editor/Publisher Award came from Bozeman Daily Chronicle Publisher Stephanie Pressly at the 130th annual convention of the Montana Newspaper Association as she was accepting her Master Editor/Publisher Award.

The following is an excerpt from Stephanie’s speech regarding Greg Corr:

To exercise better judgment and influence on Montana journalism I’m prepared to make an executive decision here and now, being a former executive of the MNA, to share the Master Editor and Publisher Award this year. In most years of the award, there has been more than one recipient. I have not gone through proper channels, haven’t consulted the board, and don’t think I’ll even have to ask forgiveness later. So with that, I want to share this year’s award with Greg Corr. Greg, as you know, is most recently the owner, editor and publisher, and probably reporter, photographer, salesperson and janitor of the Whitehall Ledger.

When I first met Greg, he reminded me of a very tall John Denver. But looking at his Facebook page I realize how wrong I was – Greg prefers Nazareth and AC/DC. But while I’m just a hired hand for a corporate entity, Greg was out there hanging it on the line. I’d like to quote what Melody Martinsen wrote the other day – I don’t think anyone could say it better.

“Like many small newspaper owners, Greg spent hours covering his community, fighting for open government access, supporting charitable causes, promoting economic development, celebrating the success of school sports teams, and mourning when tragedy struck, as it always does. He even wrote about his illness and the battle he is facing. He is one of the good guys.”

So I am unofficially presenting Greg, in absentia, with the Master Editor and Publisher Award this year and I encourage the board to make this official and part of the permanent record before leaving Big Sky.

The Montana Newspaper Association officially voted on and recognized Greg Corr as Master Editor/Publisher at the annual meeting on Saturday, June 13, 2015.

Master Editor/Publisher Award: Stephanie Pressly

Stephanie Pressly started her career in 1984 as the office manager for Garnet Publications, where she assisted the publisher with all aspects of producing a weekly real estate publication. In 1985, she became the circulation director for North Coast Newspapers. In 1987, Stephanie worked for Worrell Enterprises. During that time, she served as advertising director for Light Newspapers, a group of three community newspapers in La Jolla, California; general manager of the Coronado Journal, and finally as publisher of Light Newspapers.

In 1995, Stephanie headed south and became publisher of Gulf Coast Newspapers, a group of six community newspapers in Fairhope, Alabama. She learned that Southerners sometimes have unique ways of expressing themselves, when she was greeted upon arrival with a note and severed human finger tacked to her office door. The finger was apparently a casualty of a pressroom-related accident, and its owner wanted the new publisher to improve working conditions “right quick.”

Stephanie did due diligence in the southland, but she is a western girl at heart. She next joined the Arizona Republic as general manager of the Arizona Business Gazette.

In 1998, she joined the Pioneer News Group. During her time with Pioneer, she has served as the publisher of the Idaho State Journal in Pocatello, Idaho; the Idaho Press Tribune in Nampa, Idaho, and is currently publisher of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, a position she has held since 2007. Stephanie was the first woman publisher in Pioneer. Today, 30 percent of Pioneer’s publishers are women.

Stephanie is a past president and has served on the Board of Directors of the Montana Newspaper Association. She was on the Board of Directors and is past president-elect of the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association. She was a member and president of the Idaho Allied Dailies and a member and president of the Utah-Idaho-Spokane Associated Press Association. In 2000, she was honored as one of Pressstime magazine’s 20 Under 40.

As publisher of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, last year’s Sam Gilluly Award-winning newspaper, Stephanie has created a culture that acknowledges and respects the individual talents of her employees. The consummate professional, she also knows how to have fun. The Chronicle’s Halloween celebration, with each department competing for honors in the dress up competition, and the thematic holiday parties, ranging from “Ugly Sweater” to “Island Christmas,” are legendary. The barbecue grill on the Chronicle’s back patio serves up burgers and hot dogs on sunny summer afternoons.

Stephanie Pressly is a class act. She is an outstanding publisher, excellent journalist and caring employer. The Montana Newspaper Association is honored to present her the Master Editor/Publisher Award for 2015.

Cindy Sease, advertising director of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, nominated Stephanie Pressly for this award.
The School of Journalism presented diplomas to three graduate and 63 undergraduate students as part of the University of Montana’s 118th Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 16.

In journalism classes fledgling reporters learn that a complete and balanced story must answer these questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How?

News that Lee Newspapers is buying out its longtime State Bureau reporters Charles S. Johnson and Mike Dennison will mean Montana news consumers, even Great Falls Tribune readers, will be without the answers to many of those questions in the coverage of state government.

Lee Newspapers owns the Billings Gazette, Helena Independent Record, Montana Standard, the Missoulian and the Ravalli Republic. The Great Falls Tribune ran many of Johnson’s and Dennison’s stories as rewrites by The Associated Press.

When they leave their Helena office next Friday they take with them irreplaceable experience, contacts and wisdom.

Johnson, dean of the Montana state government press corps, has been around the Legislature since his college days in the late 1960s, and covered the 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention for AP, working almost without interruption as a reporter for the Tribune Capitol Bureau and Lee Newspapers State Bureau for 40 years.

Dennison, who began his career as a summer intern at the Tribune in 1981, has had long Capitol stints with AP, the Tribune Capitol Bureau, and the Lee Bureau since then.

I worked as Johnson’s partner in the Capitol Bureau in the 1970s and supervised both Johnson and Dennison when I was the Tribune’s city editor.

They defy the current “talking heads” media stereotype of a self-impressed know-it-all “journalist.” Both are unpretentious, approachable and down-to-earth, but no-nonsense reporters who view their job as a craft and a public service.

How can you replace a Chuck Johnson’s perspective, present at the Con-Con where he had firsthand knowledge of the framers’ intent for the new constitution? How can you replace his institutional knowledge of state government itself? He has a particular love for the Legislature he’s covered since 1975.

I’m certain state government officials are breathing a sigh of relief that they won’t have Mike Dennison’s “no malarkey” brand of reporting to hold them to account. His coverage of energy deregulation and health care reform was groundbreaking in its step-by-step explanatory approach.

I understand the shifting media landscape and its need for a 24-hour-cycle; news when you want it, how you want it. Both delivered the modern way. They sent out tweets on their Twitter accounts, both blogged, both posted stories to newspaper websites immediately. Their weekly Montana Public Radio show with retired news director Sally Mauk during the Legislature and during the campaign was a “must listen.”

Lee Newspapers wants a shift in the state government coverage itself. What’s gained by letting go of reporters with the best knowledge about and history of what is arguably Montana’s largest single employer — state government and its 27,000 employees?

I’m afraid the loss of Johnson’s and Dennison’s reporting will be a case of not knowing what we are missing. If it’s not there, how will we know?

Also, they kindly mentored inexperienced journalists. This is irreplaceable.

I will miss reading their breaking news and analysis. I thank them for their many years of dedicated reporting.

We were privileged in Montana to have had them for so long.

Tom Kotynski retired as Tribune associate editor in 2005 after a 35-year newspaper career. He was a reporter at the Tribune’s Capitol Bureau in Helena from 1973 to 1981.
70 years of Bozeman High’s Hawk Tawk now online

By Gail Schontzler, Bozeman Daily Chronicle, May 27, 2015

Searching the new online archive for the Hawk Tawk student newspaper, Bozeman High School senior Hannah Lang was startled to find her grandparents’ 1955 wedding announcement.

By typing in her grandfather’s name, she found the image of a 60-year-old edition of the Hawk Tawk with a Wedding Bells column, which reported several engagements, including that of Bob Lang and Eileen Browning.

“It’s really surprising to see wedding announcements in the Hawk Tawk,” Lang said.

Bozeman High alumni, family genealogists, social historians and others will find a wealth of information now that roughly 80 years of back issues of the high school newspaper have been digitally preserved on a searchable website, bozemanhighschool.advantage-preservation.com.

At Wednesday’s launch of the archive, Hawk Tawk teacher Emily Donahoe said Rosalyn Kutsch, this year’s co-editor with Lang, spearheaded the idea.

Kutsch explained earlier that it had been driving her crazy to see old copies of the Hawk Tawk turning yellow in a cabinet, slowly disintegrating, vulnerable to fire and not accessible to the public. With help from the Student Council and Principal Kevin Conwell, about $3,000 was raised to hire a company to create the archive.

“It needed to be done,” Kutsch said. “It will leave a legacy.”

The archive has already turned up a few surprises.

There’s a 1981 photo of “Kenny Gibson” (future assistant principal), playing basketball for the Hawks.

There’s a 1974 story about Karl Seel (future municipal court judge), who back then was the Hawk Tawk editor, photographed sporting long sideburns.

In 1978, a story on 15 Bozeman students chosen as All-State musicians included Steve Daines, trumpeter (and future congressman).

A 1980 story describes the Hawks speech team winning in Missoula, where sophomore Derek Strahn (future Bozeman High history teacher) and his partner won first place in novice debate, while senior Mike McFaul (future U.S. ambassador to Russia) placed fourth in varsity debate.

“Some things are completely politically incorrect,” Kutsch said. “It’s fun to see what would not fly anymore.”

For example, a 1979 story about Spirit Week urged students to dress up for Indian Day and to “come prepared for a scalping party.” Another story about a student production of “A Raisin in the Sun” describes white students performing in blackface.

A 1985 student-on-the-street interview asked “Who do you think are better drivers — males or females?”

Trying the search term “gay,” the archive turns up stories from 1952, when Gay was a student’s first name, and an opinion piece from 2000, when writer Ian Sulam criticized fellow students for calling everything “gay” as an insult. “Heterosexist b.s. is drowning BHS, raising a stench that could raise Hell itself,” he wrote.

The oldest copy of the high school newspaper that current Hawk Tawk staff has found is the Dec. 3, 1937, Gallatin High News, written when the school was Gallatin County High School.

That issue includes an interview with Miss Ida Davis, head math teacher. Davis recalled former student Gary Cooper, by then a famous Hollywood actor. “It was with great reluctance he took the lead in his senior class play,” Davis said.

The archive is missing some back issues, Kutsch said. The Hawk Tawk staff welcomes any editions people may want to lend to fill in the missing issues.

Round Up for the Foundation

Congratulations to Kay DeBruycker of Dutton, Montana, winner of the MT Fall Football Brawl CAT GRIZ Extravaganza fundraiser raffle for the Montana Newspaper Foundation. Kay and three of her guests will enjoy tickets to the Cat Griz game in November along with a catered tailgate party, two rooms for a one-night stay in Bozeman, along with the fan gear of her choice.

The Montana Newspaper Foundation is a non-profit, 501c3 education foundation with the purpose of raising, accumulating and dispersing funds to provide scholarships, internships and member education. Recent Foundation activities and fundraising took place at the MNA convention.

A full recap will be provided in the July Press Pass.

Members and Associate Members are encouraged to make volunteer contributions to the Foundation by “rounding up” their quarterly dues. Any amount is appreciated and will be used to sustain and grow the Foundation’s future offerings. Thank you to each and every one who has made a contribution in the past. The successful fundraising thus far in 2015 will enable scholarship awards to be increased for 2016 and provide member education and training along with the annual internships.
My name is Charli White and I am the recipient of the Montana Newspaper Association Pat Burke Memorial Scholarship. I am from Silesia, Montana, and am currently a sophomore at UM majoring in Journalism with minors in Spanish and History. I am emphasizing in photojournalism and design, and someday I hope to live and work in a Spanish-speaking country.

When I was a junior in high school, my mom and I visited UM and just happened to come to the Journalism School for a meeting to explore some more career options. I saw student photos hanging on the wall in that meeting room, and one in particular caught my eye, and my heart. It was of a young girl sitting on a countertop with a phone held to her ear, leaning up against a window. On the other side of the pane of glass sat her father with a phone up to his ear. They were in jail. I was profoundly impacted by that image, and from that day on I wanted to be a photojournalist.

I wish I could convey more fully to you in this sheet of paper how enormously thankful I am to have received this scholarship. It was a huge blessing that I was not expecting at all. This year has been one of the most stressful years of school for me, as I am a full-time student in the Journalism professional program now, and am working as a resident assistant on campus.

Honestly, there were a few times this semester when I was ready to give up on my dream of being a photojournalist. But I went to the Journalism School and talked with one of the professors there about my fears of not being competitive or talented enough for a journalism career. I was nervous going into that conversation, but my fears were unfounded. Where I expected condescension, I received encouragement. I had thought I was anonymous in the J school, but I discovered just the opposite.

Receiving this scholarship was further affirmation that I am exactly where I am supposed to be. It has lifted a huge financial burden from my shoulders and is helping me remember my dreams for the future. I will be studying abroad in Argentina for the spring semester of 2016, and this scholarship is helping me do that.

Thank you again so much for this scholarship and for supporting and encouraging other young journalists like myself. I hope that I would make the late Frank and Pat Burke proud.

Sincerely,
Charli R. White

Thank you so much for donating the funds for the Montana Newspaper Association Dean Stone Memorial Scholarship. Although I was not present at our annual Dean Stone Banquet this year, I was delighted to learn that I had been given this scholarship!

I’m now halfway through my college years and am so glad that I am spending them here in Missoula. I’ve spent a lot of time wondering what I should study, but Journalism was always first on my mind. I recently declared my second major, a degree in Exercise Science to complement my years spent on the Track team here at UM. I am very excited to see if I can find a career that will blend these fields of study.

I originally decided to come to the University of Montana specifically for the Journalism program.

Even though I waffled about whether or not I was going to stay in the program early on, the great professors and classes I’ve had this year told me that I should stay with the program.

Getting this scholarship helps affirm that I made the right choice and am in the right place. All the hard work I’ve put into my last two years has paid off and I’m glad that I was able to show my professors that I’ve learned from them.

My goal is to graduate from the J-school and eventually end up combining my two loves: running and writing. I would love to one day write for a running magazine or work for a small news organization that focuses on track and field. Your donation is one step on the way to me achieving this goal.

Thank you again for all the support you give to the J-school, and for helping me continue my education.

Micah Drew

Just a note to say Thank You for holding this and making it available after the fact! Our schedule didn’t allow us time to attend on the day of, but I just finished watching the first session and it was very helpful. There are so many boards in Seeley that have violated these rules in just the two years we have been here. Now we have some answers and tools to help exert our rights and our community’s right to know.

Again, Thank You to MNA for providing this service to your members!

Cheers,
Andi Bourne
Seeley Swan Pathfinder

June 26, 2015
Jim Strauss, Great Falls Tribune, was the winner of “heads or tails”

Dick Crockford, Dillon Tribune, and Pamela Chriske, MNA

Jan Anderson, Boulder Monitor, receiving the President’s Award from Cindy Sease, Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Lance Fahrney and Kellyn Brown, Flathead Beacon

First annual Spellin’B, emceed by Peter Fox

Spellin’B winning team of David McCumber, Montana Standard, and Greg Lemon and Tyler Miller, Independent Record

Chrsti the Wordsmith announced the winners of the 2015 Better Newspaper Contest