

February 21, 2013

Montana FOI Hotline has new look, receives donations

The Montana Freedom of Information Hotline Inc. is updating access-information wallet cards for reporters and the "Access Montana" brochure and is launching a new Montana FOI website.

Using grants from the National Freedom of Information Coalition (NFOIC), the Montana organization's board has updated the brochures and wallet cards and plans to have 1,000 of each printed. The board has also hired a designer to create a Montana FOI website. If you have any ideas for features or links you would like to see on this website, please email FOI Board Chairwoman Melody Martinsen, editor of the Choteau Acantha, at acantha@3rivers.net.



**Melody Martinsen, Chairwoman
Montana FOI Hotline Board**

The FOI Hotline board met in Helena in December and elected new officers for two-year terms, including Martinsen as chairwoman; Greg MacDonald, executive director of the Montana Broadcasters Association, as the vice chairman; Clemens Work, retired University of Montana School of Journalism professor, as treasurer; and Jackie Yamanaka, news

director of Yellowstone Public Radio, as secretary. Other board members are: Jim Rickman, Montana Newspaper Association executive director; Chuck Johnson, reporter, Lee State Bureau; Gary Moseman, retired managing editor of the Great Falls Tribune; Jon Stepanek, KTVQ news director; and Matt Volz, supervisory correspondent for the Associated Press in Montana.

The Hotline renewed its annual retainer agreement with Helena attorney Mike Meloy to provide legal advice for news media and citizens. He can be reached at 406-442-8670 or via email at mike@meloylawfirm.com. In 2012, Meloy responded to 121 inquiries from media and citizens.

The Hotline in January launched its operating revenue donation drive, sending solicitations for donations to all MNA and MBA members as well as several other nonaffiliated newspapers and organizations. The suggested donations are \$50 for weekly newspapers and radio stations, \$100 for small daily newspapers and TV stations, \$200 for medium dailies, and \$300 for large dailies.

Martinsen said the goal is to raise at least \$4,000 in donations from media organizations and to apply to the NFOIC for a matching sustainability grant.

So far in 2013, Montana newspapers have donated \$2,550. Newspapers that have donated as of January 30 are:

- Boulder Monitor
- Choteau Acantha
- Daniels County Leader
- Havre Daily News
- Glasgow Courier
- Conrad Independent-Observer
- Valerian
- Shelby Promoter
- Cut Bank Pioneer Press
- Glacier Reporter
- Laurel Outlook
- Montana Newspaper Association
- Phillips County News
- Whitehall Ledger
- Wibaux Pioneer-Gazette
- Livingston Enterprise
- Big Timber Pioneer
- Dillon Tribune
- Forsyth Independent Press
- Glendive Ranger-Review
- Big Horn County News
- Lewistown News-Argus
- Miles City Star
- Carbon County News
- Stillwater County News
- Terry Tribune
- Judith Basin Press
- Bigfork Eagle
- Hungry Horse News
- Whitefish Pilot
- Western News
- West Shore News
- Lake County Leader
- Clark Fork Valley Press
- Daily Inter Lake
- Mineral Independent

**Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the
Montana FOI Hotline Inc., in care of**

**Treasurer Clemens Work
5055 Huckleberry Road
Missoula, MT 59803**



Hi! My name is Jeanne Bouma

I have been employed here at the Montana Newspaper Association going on 20 years. I cannot believe I have been here this long; the time has really flown by. Chuck Walk hired me, and then I worked with Jim Fall after Chuck retired, followed by John Barrows, and now Jim Rickman. Each one has brought in new and exciting duties to learn and, believe me, some have been a real challenge.

I have been a bookkeeper for darn near 40 years, which I fell into accidentally. I started working for an insurance company, and was laid off, when I was hired here at MNA. I will admit that I did not know anything about advertising when I started working here, and it has been a challenge and a great learning process.

I am the SCAN Coordinator, and just recently became the SDAP Coordinator. Please bear with me while I learn the SDAP technique. As I mentioned, this is a great learning process.

Thank you all for giving me a chance.

MNA Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 20 Members begin posting entries for MNA Better Newspaper Contest for 2012

MARCH

- 4-8 Newspaper in Education Week
- 11- 15 National Sunshine Week
- 14 Deadline to submit articles for March *Press Pass*
- 14 NNA 2013 "We Believe in Newspapers" Leadership Summit, Washington D.C.
- 15 MNA Better Newspaper Contest 2012 entry deadline
- 16 Freedom of Information Day
- 25 MNA Better Newspaper Contest North Dakota judging starts

APRIL

- 1 MNA/MNAS Board members' deadline to reserve rooms at Double Arrow Lodge
- 10 North Dakota Judging for MNA BNC ends
- 18-19 MNA/MNAS Boards of Directors Strategic Planning Meeting, Double Arrow Lodge, Seeley Lake
- 18 Deadline to submit articles for April *Press Pass*

JUNE

- 13-15 128th MNA Convention Holiday Inn/Downtown, Missoula
- 15 Presentation of BNC Awards at MNA Convention

GIVE IT TO ME LOCAL

HOUSING MARKET HEATS UP

COMING SUNDAY

Sunday Business
Home prices are rising and construction is picking up. We take a look at Great Falls, Havre, Shelby and Cut Bank markets.

Children of military
Life can be tough for military dependents who have to change schools often. A new bill would make it easier.

It's Game Day
Previews and predictions for the Ravens-49ers Super Bowl.

All things Montana. ★ www.greatfallstribune.com ★ 888-424-8742 ★

GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE A GANNETT COMPANY

JAN 31 2015

An example by the Great Falls Tribune of promoting upcoming newspaper content.

Other member newspapers might take note and do something similar in their own newspapers.

825 Great Northern Blvd., Suite 202 | Helena, MT 59601
 Toll Free in MT 800-325-8276 | Fax 406-443-2860
 Jim Rickman, Executive Director | jim@mtnewspapers.com
 Linda Fromm, Advertising/Office Manager | ltomgr@mtnewspapers.com



PEOPLE and PAPERS

Library solves puppy poop problem

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reports that the San Francisco animal control agency will pick up newspapers from the public library about twice a month. The agency relies on the papers to line cages and catch its puppies' poop, proving that print editions of newspapers remain just as vital in the digital age.

Reporter joins the *Great Falls Tribune*

Jenn Rowell is the new military/government reporter for the *Great Falls Tribune*. Rowell moved to Great Falls last month from Washington, D.C., where she was the press relations and communications manager for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. Rowell has a degree in political science and is currently working on a masters in international relations.

Associated Press names temporary reporter in Helena

Kathryn Haake, a graduate of the University of Denver specializing in international communications, will help cover the legislature and other news in Helena for the Associated Press beginning February 18. Haake has worked as a reporter and photographer at the *Valley Journal* in Ronan, Mont., covering law enforcement, health care, tribal government and other issues on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Tammy Nipper joins *Carbon County News*

Tammy Nipper has joined the sales team at the *Carbon County News* in Red Lodge as an Account Executive. Tammy brings over 20 years experience in the retail industry.

Get involved by attending public meetings

Editor of the *Sidney Herald*, Bill Vander Weele, urges Sidney residents to take a more active role in the community. Meetings involving county commissioners, city councils and school boards are almost always open to the public. The main exception is when a matter of individual privacy is being discussed. Even then, a person can waive the right of privacy to have the meeting open. Residents should remember that these boards aren't the only ones that must have meetings open to the public. The law reads, "Any public entity or committee or any private entity that receives or expends public funds is required to have open meetings." Not only that, but if a group has a "public purpose," those meetings must also be open. Every meeting must have a time for public comment on non-agenda items.

Lawsuit between *The Enterprise*, city will now include Tubaugh

On Jan. 11, *The Enterprise* filed a lawsuit against the City of Livingston after city officials declined to release certain personnel papers associated with the October termination of former Livingston Police Department Officer Matthew Tubaugh. In the initial lawsuit *The Enterprise* claimed the city's denial to release the documents violates Montana's Constitution. Montana law, however, sometimes allows for some documents to be protected. *The Enterprise* argued that Tubaugh's documents should be considered public because he

held a position of public trust. In a Jan. 23 motion, Livingston City Attorney Bruce Becker requested the court add Tubaugh to the case, which would increase Tubaugh's ability to protect his own privacy. *The Enterprise* and its attorney, Steven Woodruff, gave consent to the joinder, according to a Jan. 31 court document. *The Enterprise* lawsuit seeks the requested documents plus costs and attorney fees.

Newspaper reality show in the works

The National Newspaper Association is assisting NBC Peacock Productions in locating a community newspaper to be the subject of a reality show. "We're an Emmy award-winning production company that's looking to produce a documentary-style reality show featuring a small-town paper working hard to stay on top of breaking news and keep financially afloat in an increasingly competitive world." Contact smalltownnewspapershow@gmail.com or call (212) 664-2307 if your company is interested in being featured on the show.

National speaker to give presentation on healthy lifestyles

In a February 13 *Independent Record* article announcing Joe Piscatella, leading expert and renowned speaker on lifestyle and cardiac health, as the keynote speaker for St. Peter's Hospital Heart of the Matter event on February 21, reporter Peggy O'Neill quotes Mr. Piscatella.

"People should get more news from the newspaper instead of the sensationalism on the evening news," he said. "The worst things in the world are shown over and over. After watching it, people find it difficult to sleep."

We've been hacked...

Email messages received by customers and people who send or receive emails from the *Phillips County News* stated that publisher Curtis Starr had been mugged and was stranded in Syntagma Athens, Greece, without any money. The newspaper had been hacked. There was no foul play and the newspaper is in the process of getting things straightened out.

From Dixie to Dawson: *Ranger* welcomes reporter

Jason Stuart is a new reporter at the *Glendive Ranger-Review* covering community news. As a senior at the University of Denver in Colorado, Stuart started his journalism career at the *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, where he wrote stories on agriculture, government and sports. In his new position on the edge of the booming Bakken, Stuart will cover various community beats including school issues and outdoor and wildlife legislative bills.

A note from the new owners

Andi and Nathan Bourne are the new owners of the *Seeley Swan Pathfinder*. They plan to continue the current content and include more content on recreational opportunities, club happenings, human-interest pieces and news. They thank previous owners Caroline and Dwight Jenkins, and wish them well on their new journey.

NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN

A chain is only as strong as its links.

Your industry needs **YOU** now
to join the fight for:

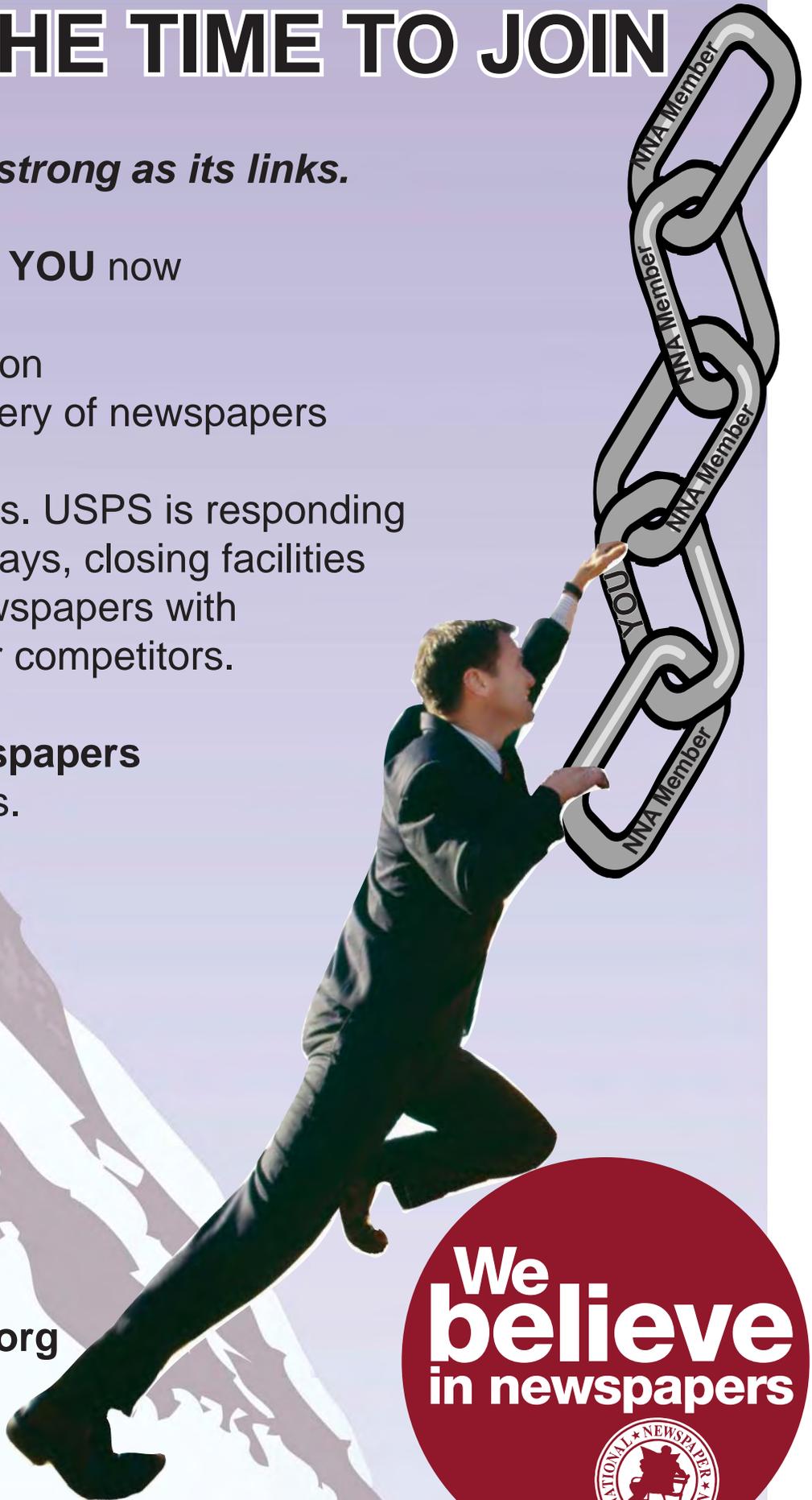
- Fair competition
- Reliable delivery of newspapers

The postal cliff looms. USPS is responding by cutting delivery days, closing facilities and challenging newspapers with special deals for our competitors.

NNA member newspapers
are on the front lines.
If you aren't there,
someone else is
standing in for you.

Your industry and
your livelihood
depend on **YOU**
being a part
of the fight.

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and join us NOW.



We
believe
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