Best News Photo
Division 5: Daily newspapers (6 & 7-day)
2018 Better Newspaper Contest
By Tom Bridge, Independent Record

Titled: Fighting the Fire Near Homes
Caption: A VLAT, or very large air tanker, drops a load of retardant on a lightning-sparked fire south of Helena.

Judge’s Comment: In a category that had a lot of photos of wildland fires, this one stood out because it was different and showed originality.
MNA Calendar

September
3  Federal holiday: Labor Day
3  MNA office will be closed for the Labor Day holiday
4  National Newspaper Carrier Day
21 MNA and MNAS Board of Directors' Meeting - Bozeman
21  Deadline to submit articles for the September Press Pass newsletter

October
1  Deadline to file USPS Statement of Ownership, Management & Circulation Form 3526
8  Federal holiday: Columbus Day
19  Deadline to submit articles for the October Press Pass newsletter

November
1  Deadline to return your 2019 MNA Rate and Data Survey
6  Montana general election
7  Montana Newspaper Foundation 2019 Internship Grants open for application
9  Deadline to submit articles for the November Press Pass newsletter
11  Federal holiday: Veterans Day
12  Federal holiday: Veterans Day (observed)
22  Federal holiday: Thanksgiving Day
22 - 23 MNA office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Day holiday

December
2  Montana Newspaper Foundation 2019 Internship Grant application deadline
14  Deadline to submit articles for the December Press Pass newsletter
20  Montana Newspaper Foundation 2019 Internship Grant winners announced
24 - 25 MNA office will be closed for the Christmas holiday
25  Federal holiday: Christmas Day

WELCOME
New Associate Member

Montana Newspaper Association
825 Great Northern Blvd., Ste. 202
Helena, MT 59601
Phone 406-443-2850
Fax 406-443-2860

Our MISSION:
To advance and sustain the news publishing industry in Montana.

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Stacy Wirtz, Business Development Director | stacy@mtnewspapers.com
Ryan Stavnes, Member Relations & Client Services | member@mtnewspapers.com
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Contest Winners

Best Page Layout & Design

1st PLACE
Division 5
Daily newspapers (6 & 7-day)
By Montana Standard Staff

Best Front Page

1st PLACE
Division 5
Daily newspapers (6 & 7-day)
By Montana Standard Staff

To view all the first-place winners of the 2018 Better Newspaper Contest, please visit the following link:
JOIN MONTANA’S EFFECTIVE Statewide Online Advertising Program (SOAP)

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National Newspaper Week 2018

October 7-13
Materials for use by newspapers promoting NNW will be available at: http://www.nationalnewspaperweek.com/
The University of Montana School of Journalism has established a new media lab to serve as a center of innovation offering skills-based journalism training to members of the public interested in multimedia storytelling and audience engagement.

Journalist and filmmaker Anne Bailey, a former professor and graduate of the school, will become the founding director of the Montana Journalism Media Lab. This new center marks a major expansion for the century-old journalism school, which regularly ranks among the top 10 journalism schools in the nation.

The School of Journalism will create the lab as an interdisciplinary center that will make the school and its work more accessible to other units on campus and to storytellers around the state and the nation.

Journalism Dean Larry Abramson announced the new effort, saying it would help the school push boundaries and expand its influence beyond the student body.

“For over a century, we have trained some of the nation’s top journalists,” Abramson said. “Under Anne Bailey’s leadership, the Montana Journalism Media Lab will help train scientists, entrepreneurs and businesspeople how to tell their stories in the most effective way.”

Plans for the lab include workshops taught by experts outside of Missoula who will share their expertise in subjects such as web design, data visualization and social media strategy. The Media Lab is supported by private donations, Abramson said, and will be the focus of major fundraising efforts in the years to come.

Bailey graduated from the School of Journalism master’s program in 2008. She has taught and practiced journalism all over the world: from a smartphone video course for Libyans in Rome to a multimedia journalism project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She has taught courses at the SALT Institute for Documentary Studies in Portland, Maine, and served as the Distinguished Anthony T. Pollner Professor at the UM School of Journalism in the spring of 2017. She also has filed regularly for the PRI news program “The World.”

As founding director, Bailey will have a strong voice in designing the lab and in finding initial partners.

“I’m excited to be in on the ground floor of this exciting opportunity,” Bailey said. “I believe the lab could make UM and Missoula a center for innovative media projects.”

The lab will be housed in Don Anderson Hall, the journalism school’s home on the UM campus.

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**2018 USPS Statement of Ownership**

The deadline for filing your Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (PS Form 3526) with the U.S. Postal Service is October 1 of each year. The filing and publication of this form is a requirement for maintaining Periodicals mailing privileges. Dailies must publish a completed copy of this form in their newspaper by October 10, and non-dailies by October 31. 

USPS has revised PS form 3526. The latest form has a July 2014 date at the very bottom.

The ability to claim electronic subscribers has been incorporated into the form. PS Form 3526x (worksheet) is no longer necessary. Claiming electronic paid subscribers is voluntary. If you choose to not claim electronic copies, page three has a box to certify that at least 50% of all distributed copies are paid for above a nominal price, and a signature section.

There are specific requirements as to what defines a paid electronic subscriber. A print subscriber that is given free access to your electronic version is not a paid electronic subscriber. A paid electronic subscriber must pay a separate subscription rate that you have established for electronic subscribers. You are allowed to offer discounts to this rate but there are limitations.

Additionally, reporting less than 60% total paid subscribers on your Statement of Ownership could trigger a USPS circulation audit to verify your Periodicals eligibility. Also, at least 40% of your paid circulation must consist of printed copies.

The form, including instructions, can be found at: [https://about.usps.com/forms/ps3526.pdf](https://about.usps.com/forms/ps3526.pdf)
We know they’re there, those pesky typos and grammatical errors that appear in the Missoulian despite our best efforts. Nearly always, we’ve caught them — too late — before getting your irate call/email/letter.

We’ve probably already fixed the problem online by then, and, if the mistake involves a factual error, written a correction for the next day’s paper.

But first, we’ve beaten our heads against the wall for a while because, truly, we hate them as much as you do.

Back in the day, the Missoulian, like most papers, had a protective phalanx of copy editors, armed with dog-eared copies of the AP Stylebook and the dirtiest minds on the planet, the better to catch those unintended double entendres.

They were the last lines of defense, after a story had already gone through at least a couple of layers of editing for factual and structural issues. The best copy editors possessed fearsome amounts of knowledge about grammar and style, and a horror of seeing either misused.

Quick quiz:
1. Wal-Mart, Walmart or Walmart?
2. Seven-11, Seven Eleven, 7/11 or 7-Eleven?
3. Is cellphone one word or two?
4. Does anyone with a Ph.D. get a Dr. in front of his or her name?
5. And is that the correct way to write Ph.D.?

A copy editor knew the answers to all of those, and expected reporters to, also. Copy editors checked stories for typos, grammatical errors and style issues, and were empowered to kick stories back to the editors and/or reporters if they caught structural or factual issues that might have been missed. Depending on the size of a newspaper, a story could be read by as many as a half-dozen people or even more by the time the copy desk handed it off. (Yet even then, mistakes still made it into print.)

Copy editors also checked captions and wrote headlines, a little-known fact that for years gave reporters plausible deniability when the subject of a story complained about a headline.

But at the Missoulian, as at most newspapers around the country, copy editors were a lamentable casualty of budget cuts. Now, reporters are wise to be their own best editors, even though any writer can tell you that the quickest way to catch errors of any sort is with a second (and preferably a third and fourth) set of eyes.

Reporters write their own headlines, too, and ship their stories to an editor who’s getting stories from all the other reporters at once, with only a couple of hours to edit them — all of them — before deadline. Then it’s off to a design person, who thankfully reads the stories again, but quickly, quickly, before sending them to a center in Indiana, where more page designers work to lay out the Missoulian and several other papers.

The generally accepted wisdom has been that in the space of about 12 hours, newspaper journalists report, write and edit the equivalent of a book.

The Missoulian does this now with about half the news staff it had a decade ago. Our copy editors are long gone. These days, even as they report and craft their stories, journalists are busy tweeting, writing early versions for breaking news, and posting to other social media outlets.

Do mistakes get through in this kind of speeded-up, trimmed-down, multitasking environment? You bet. Do we hate that they do? Terribly. After all, our names are on those stories. And even though editors labor in anonymity, we’re painfully aware that with every missed error, we’ve let a reporter — and the readers — down.

So, we apologize for our errors. And as much as we cringe when you point them out, we ask that you continue to do so, because if we don’t know about them, we can’t fix them. After all, our ultimate goal is accuracy, even in the smallest details and even if sometimes it’s belated.

Answers:
• Walmart
• 7-Eleven
• Cellphone is one word.
• Only medical doctors get a Dr.
• Ph.D. is correct, but the term doctorate is preferred.

Missoulian city editor Gwen Florio spent years on copy desks at newspapers in Bucks County, Pa., Philadelphia and Baltimore. She’s among many people still recovering from the AP’s recent decision that “over” is permissible (instead of “more than”) for quantity.
PEOPLE and PAPERS

Sidney Herald hires a new publisher

Kelly Miller has been named publisher of the Sidney Herald.

“We are pleased to bring someone with Kelly’s experience to the Sidney Herald.” said Wick Communications group publisher Ken Harty.

Miller, a 20-year veteran of the newspaper industry, was most recently publisher of the Mineral Daily News Tribune, a daily owned by Gatehouse Media. She specializes in sales training and has a strong background in advertising and sales.

The Michigan native and graduate of Western Michigan University brings a strong interest in civic organizations and community. Miller is very involved in Rotary International, serving as communications chair for the Keyser, West Virginia, Rotary Club.

“I am very excited to begin working with the team at the Sidney Herald and for Wick Communications. I can't wait to meet with the community and do all I can to make it successful,” Miller said.

“We're grateful to have added a leader of Kelly's capabilities to the beautiful community of Sidney and overall Wick organization,” Harty said.

“Miller's experience, leadership and great sense of humor help draw the best out of those around her, while maintaining a high expectation of quality content and innovative ways to help local merchants prosper,” said Francis Wick, CEO of Wick Communications.

Miller is married to Donnie Miller, a retired Army National Guard veteran. She enjoys spending time with her dogs, on her motorcycle, golfing and also cheering for the Detroit Lions.

2019 MNA Rate and Data Survey is now available

The annual Rate and Data Survey is the ultimate tool used by the MNA to accurately represent our membership for advertising and other services.

With 85 member newspapers, we enjoy the challenge of processing the hundreds of details involved in print and digital advertising as we strive to develop easy-to-understand presentations and proposals for our potential clients. Our goal is to respond to our client advertising requests within 24 hours, making the information in the Rate and Data Survey an invaluable administrative tool for the MNA staff.

We ask for your commitment to fully complete the survey, which consists of five (5) tabs, and return it to the MNA office by November 1. And, as always, we welcome your updates at any time to help us accurately represent your newspaper.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Please contact Stacy with questions at (406) 443-2850 or stacy@mtnewspapers.com. The survey is also available for members to access from the MNA website: MNA 2019 Rate and Data Survey.

Code your legal ads and public notices

The MNA is reminding members to double-check their legal advertising and public notices to make sure the “MNAXLP” code is on the page or with the ad. This includes all liner and display, legal and public notice ads.

The “MNAXLP” code allows the MNA to digitally transfer legal advertising and public notices to our critical public notice website: http://www.mtpublicnotices.com/mna/legals/

If you have any questions on the process, please contact Jim Rickman, executive director, at (406) 443-2850 or jim@mtnewspapers.com.
When I graduated from Thompson Falls High School, I went to the University of Montana in Missoula, mainly because it was close to home. I started out on the Biology track and hit the ground running. It wasn't until almost a year-and-a-half later that I decided I loved to write a lot more than I loved studying anatomy of a frog. Lucky for me, the University of Montana has an acclaimed Creative Writing program that I could get into and get my feet wet. My major then switched to English with a creative writing concentration.

After that, the real work began. I would now have to find a way to get a job in a thin field. Over the winter break I explored the possibility of writing for the Sanders County Ledger. I thought that it would be a perfect fit for me being able to stay in Thompson Falls and work in a field I loved.

Working at the Sanders County Ledger has been an amazing journey this summer, and the perfect opportunity to get some experience in a field that I always hoped I would be in. Having had the opportunity to go out firsthand, getting interviews and taking pictures with the different community stories that I have been involved with, has helped me develop my writing skills. I have also been learning the editing and layout side of a newspaper and all the work that goes into just one issue. This job has given me a new perspective and skill set that you can only get outside the classroom.

There's a good word for people who don't read their community newspaper: the word is uninformed.

If a person doesn't want to know what happened at the latest school board meeting, or what the county commissioners decided, or what happened at the city council meeting, the easiest way to stay uninformed is by not reading your community newspaper.

We are proud of the coverage that we provide at this newspaper, and we know that we continue as your best source for community news.

A recent survey by Susquehanna Polling and Research for the National Newspaper Association echoed our feelings about the importance of community journalism. Of the survey’s respondents, an impressive 90 percent noted that their community newspaper informs them of issues in their community. These readers understand the importance of being educated. In fact, the survey reports that 84 percent of them said they were very likely to vote in the next election. The survey also reported that 81 percent of the respondents depend on their local newspaper to learn about local candidates.

Where do people turn to learn about local news? It’s their community newspaper, by a landslide. The survey shows that 64 percent of respondents said they either read a newspaper in print or online. By comparison, other sources of local news included the Internet at 14 percent, radio and satellite radio at 8 percent and social media at 4 percent. Another interesting statistic is that 66 percent of respondents say they share their paper with at least one other person, including 9 percent that said they share it with five or more people. Knowledge is certainly something that people love to spread.

When it comes to what people rely on as their primary source for shopping and purchasing decisions, community newspapers were at 24 percent — ahead of direct mailings (18 percent), social media (16 percent) and in-store promotions (13 percent). Local TV stations were at 5 percent and radio was at 3 percent.

It’s clear that you can look to your community newspaper not only for the most important news in town, but also for the hottest buys around. That knowledge is something we in the newspaper world have known for a long time, and we love that our readers continue to allow us to serve.
From Paul Janensch:
As an editor at four newspapers and an associate professor of journalism at Quinnipiac University, these were among the writing tips I bestowed on reporters and students:
1. Think first. What is the story? Do I have all the information I need?
2. Jot down an outline. Just a few words: the opening, bases to touch, kicker at end.
3. Don’t start at the beginning. Start with what’s important. With a feature, the top can be an anecdote or surprising statement. But then get to the point.
5. When you have finished, you are not finished. Go over it carefully. Is it accurate? Is it crystal clear? What’s missing? What can be deleted? What should be rephrased?

From Tom Stites, president of the Banyan Project:
The best tip I ever got came from Ray Lyle, my first city editor, when I was a summer intern at The Kansas City Star: “News is what happened; talk is cheap.”
That was a long time ago, before not only the Internet but also before cable news, and now we live in a world of information that’s miles deep in talk. This makes Lyle’s adage even more important now than it was when I first heard it.

From former NPR ombud Alicia “Lisa” Shepard:
1. Write like you speak; write conversationally.
2. Put me there, make me see = show, don’t tell.
3. White space is your friend. Vary sentence length. MEGO (My Eyes Glaze Over) happens with huge blocks of type.
4. Create some mystery in the lead that makes the reader want to move on. String pearls throughout the piece. Don’t give everything away at the beginning.
5. Include the name of the dog, or the type of car a person drives; they both tell you something about the person.
6. If you read something you like, pull it apart, analyze it. Why is it so good? Why do you want to keep reading?
7. Read your copy out loud. Always. If it’s difficult for you, the writer, you can bet it will be for the reader.

From Pete Skiba:
OK. I know it isn’t about writing, but without reporting, one can’t write non-fiction. My Rutgers journalism teacher Jim Moffatt, from The Philadelphia Inquirer, always said, “Leave the truth to philosophers; give me the facts.”

From John Robinson, former editor of the News & Record in Greensboro, North Carolina:
1. The best writing is in rewriting.
2. The key to good writing is better, deeper reporting.
Robinson says many of the best writing tips have come from Poynter’s Roy Peter Clark, particularly his “Fifty Writing Tools.” My favorites from this list include “Activate your verbs” (No. 3), “Watch those adverbs” (No. 5) and “Build your work around a key question” (No. 31).

From Steve Padilla, veteran editor at the Los Angeles Times (whose Twitter feed is dedicated to this subject):
Mark Twain once said: “Don’t say the lady screamed. Bring her on and let her scream.”
Pew Research Center Newspapers Fact Sheet

Newspapers are a critical part of the American news landscape, but they have been hit hard as more and more Americans consume news digitally. The industry’s financial fortunes and subscriber base have been in decline since the early 2000s, even as website audience traffic has grown for many. Meanwhile, alt-weekly papers have also seen their circulation drop. Explore the patterns and longitudinal data about U.S. newspapers below.

Audience

The estimated total U.S. daily newspaper circulation (print and digital combined) in 2017 was 31 million for weekday and 34 million for Sunday, down 11% and 10%, respectively, from the previous year. Declines were highest in print circulation: Weekday print circulation decreased 11% and Sunday circulation decreased 10%.

Digital circulation is more difficult to gauge. Three of the highest-circulation daily papers in the U.S. – The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post – have in recent years not fully reported their digital circulation to the Alliance for Audited Media (AAM), the group that audits the circulation figures of many of the largest North American newspapers and other publications. Two of these papers report such digital circulation elsewhere: The New York Times in their financial statements and The Wall Street Journal in reports available on the Dow Jones website. (The Washington Post does not fully report digital circulation in any forum.) But because they may not be counted under the same rules used by AAM, these independently produced figures cannot easily be merged with the AAM data.

Taking these complexities into account, using the AAM data, digital circulation in 2017 was projected to have fallen, with weekday down 9% and Sunday also down 9%. According to the independently produced reports from The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, however, both companies saw large gains in digital circulation in the past year: 42% for the Times and 26% for the Journal, on top of gains in 2016. If these independently produced figures were included in both 2016 and 2017, weekday digital circulation would have risen by 10%.

This would also change the overall picture for combined print and digital circulation. Including the digital boost driven by these two large, national brands would still result in an overall drop in circulation year-over-year, but a smaller one: Overall weekday circulation would have fallen by 4% in 2017 rather than 11%.

Gauging digital audience for the entire newspaper industry is difficult since many daily newspapers do not receive enough traffic to their websites to be measured by comScore, the data source relied on here. Thus, the figures offered above reflect the top 50 U.S. daily newspapers based on circulation. In the fourth quarter of 2017, there was an average of 11.5 million monthly unique visitors (across all devices) for these top 50 newspapers. This is nearly the same as in 2016 (11.7 million), making this the first year since we began tracking the trend that did not show a double-digit rise in web traffic: There was, for example, a 21% increase from 2015 to 2016 and an 18% rise from 2014 to 2015. (The list of top 50 papers is based on Sunday circulation but also includes The Wall Street Journal, which does not have any Sunday circulation. It also includes The Washington Post and The New York Times, which make the top 50 even though they do not fully report their digital circulation to AAM. For more details and the full list of newspapers, see our methodology.)

Average minutes per visit for the top 50 U.S. daily newspapers, based on circulation, is about two-and-a-half minutes. This is roughly the same as 2016.

Beyond daily newspapers, many U.S. cities have what are known as “alt-weekly” papers – weekly newspapers, generally distributed for free, which put a heavy focus on arts and culture. Average circulation for the top 20 U.S. alt-weekly papers is just over 55,000, a 10% decline from 2016.

Economics

Turning back to the newspaper industry as a whole, the total estimated newspaper industry advertising revenue for 2017 was $16.5 billion, based on the Center’s analysis of financial statements for publicly traded newspaper companies. This decreased 10% from 2016. Total estimated circulation revenue was $11 billion, which is changed only slightly from 2016, up by 3%.

Digital advertising accounted for 31% of newspaper advertising revenue in 2017, based on this same analysis of publicly traded newspaper companies. The portion stood at 29% in 2016 and 17% in 2011.

Newsroom investment

According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Employment Statistics, 39,210 people worked as reporters, editors, photographers, or film and video editors in the newspaper industry in 2017. That is down 15% from 2014 and 45% from 2004. Median wages for editors in 2017 were about $49,000, while for reporters the figure was about $34,000.

Find out more at: http://www.journalism.org/fact-sheet/newspapers/
ADVICE from the EXPERTS

The press is not the enemy

By Judy Patrick, New York Press Association

“(The people) have a right, an indisputable, unalienable, indefeasible, divine right, to that most dreaded and envied kind of knowledge, I mean, of the characters and conduct of their rulers.”

— John Adams, 1765

We've been complacent. We thought everybody knew how important a free press was to our world and that all this talk about us being the enemy of the people would be dismissed for the silliness that it is.

But the reckless attacks have continued, instigated and encouraged by our president.

When the leader of the free world works to erode the public's trust in the media, the potential for damage is enormous, both here and abroad. We once set an example of free and open government for the world to follow. Now those who seek to suppress the free flow of information are doing so with impunity.

The time has come for us to stand up to the bullying. The role journalism plays in our free society is too crucial to allow this degradation to continue.

We aren't the enemy of the people. We are the people. We aren't fake news. We are your news and we struggle night and day to get the facts right.

On bitter cold January nights, we're the people's eyes and ears at town, village and school board meetings. We tell the stories of our communities, from the fun of a county fair to the despair a family faces when a loved one is killed.

We are always by your side. We shop the same stores, attend the same churches and hike the same trails. We struggle with daycare and worry about paying for retirement.

In our work as journalists, our first loyalty is to you. Our work is guided by a set of principles that demand objectivity, independence, open-mindedness and the pursuit of the truth. We make mistakes, we know. There's nothing we hate more than errors, but we acknowledge them, correct them and learn from them.

Our work is a labor of love because we love our country and believe we are playing a vital role in our democracy. Self-governance demands that our citizens need to be well-informed and that's what we're here to do. We go beyond the government issued press release or briefing and ask tough questions. We hold people in power accountable for their actions. Some think we're rude to question and challenge. We know it's our obligation.

People have been criticizing the press for generations. We are not perfect. But we're striving every day to be a better version of ourselves than we were the day before.

That's why we welcome criticism. But unwarranted attacks that undermine your trust in us cannot stand. The problem has become so serious that newspapers across the nation are speaking out against these attacks in one voice today on their editorial pages.

As women's rights pioneer and investigative journalist Ida B. Wells wrote in 1892: “The people must know before they can act and there is no educator to compare with the press.”

Newsprint tariffs

By Catie Edmondson and Jaclyn Peiser, The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration's decision to impose tariffs on Canadian newsprint is hastening the demise of local newspapers across the country, forcing already-struggling publications to cut staff, reduce the number of days they print and, in at least one case, shutter entirely.

Surging newsprint costs are beginning to hurt publications like The Gazette in Janesville, Wis., the hometown paper of the House speaker, Paul D. Ryan, which has long felt a mandate to punch above its weight. The paper, with a newsroom staff of 22, was the first to publish the news in 2016 that Mr. Ryan would support the presidential candidacy of Donald J. Trump. And while its editorial board has endorsed Mr. Ryan countless times, the paper made national news when it chided him for refusing to hold town halls with his constituents.

Now, with newsprint tariffs increasing annual printing costs by $740,000, The Gazette has made several cuts to its staff and is using narrower paper, reducing the number of stories published every day.
“We’re all paying a huge price,” Skip Bliss, the publisher of The Gazette, said of the tariffs’ effect on the industry. “I fear it’s going to be a very difficult time. I think there’s probably going to be some casualties.”

The newsprint tariffs are just one of several trade measures President Trump has rolled out as part of his administration’s effort to protect American manufacturers by stopping what he calls unfair trade practices. Tariffs were implemented in January, after the Commerce Department sided with North Pacific Paper Company, a paper mill based in Washington State, in a complaint alleging that Canadian manufacturers were selling newsprint at artificially low prices. Last week, publishers won a small reprieve when the department issued final tariffs of 3.38 to 16.88 percent, slightly lower than what it had initially imposed.

Even if the tariffs seem to align with Mr. Trump’s well-known disdain for the news media, the administration’s ruling in favor of the company that filed the complaint was not unusual as the president carries out his trade fight.

The administration has encouraged companies to bring cases when they have complaints against foreign parties, and the “countervailing duty” process under which North Pacific Paper’s case was initiated is set up to defend American companies against foreign competitors. As of mid-July, companies had brought 120 new anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations under the Trump administration — about a third more than in a similar time frame at the end of the Obama administration, according to Commerce Department statistics.

As with Mr. Trump’s other tariffs on steel, aluminum, solar panels and washing machines, the newsprint duties will help some American manufacturers but hurt many other domestic companies.

A study undertaken on behalf of a coalition of printers, publishers and paper suppliers projects that American newspaper prices will increase more than 30 percent in the next one to two years, and that newspapers and printers will face an increased cost of roughly half a billion dollars from the remaining five American mills producing newsprint. The study was filed with the United States International Trade Commission, an independent federal agency that governs trade and could ultimately overturn or change the Commerce Department’s decision in a ruling expected next month.

Papers throughout the country are already feeling the effects of the tariffs. At least a dozen newspapers across the country have cut publication days, and one newspaper, The Jackson County Times-Journal in Ohio, shut down, citing declining print readership and the tariffs. Larger publications, like The Tampa Bay Times, which won two Pulitzer Prizes in 2016 for local and investigative reporting, are also on the list of affected papers.

Paul Tash, the chairman and chief executive of The Tampa Bay Times, said the price per ton of paper had increased $200, creating an additional $3.5 million in printing expenses annually. Mr. Tash said that as a direct result of the tariffs, he had to lay off 50 employees, combine sections in the Sunday paper and reduce the frequency of a free tabloid from five days to once a week.

“Anything that contributes to the pressure on this paper has to be a concern,” Mr. Tash said. But he asserted that the paper had not lost its mission of producing quality journalism. “We’re still doing great work. We’re still doing great stories. We’re still holding people to account. I don’t want to leave the impression that all that’s left are crossword puzzles.”

In some rural towns, the local weekly newspaper serves as the area’s only media outlet, said Crystal Dupre, the publisher of The Bryan-College Station Eagle in Bryan, Tex.

“There is no question that without a local newspaper, no one is holding officials accountable and serving as the local archives,” Ms. Dupre said.

In response to printing cost increases of 30 percent, she said, The Eagle has reduced the number of pages it prints daily, and avoided filling vacant positions in “every single department,” from editorial to accounting. Ms. Dupre said she has tried to avoid cutting reporting positions, instead asking other departments to take on more work.

“The readers suffer when you cut a reporter position. It’s probably the easiest place to cut because you just run an A.P. story,” she said. “But it affects your local content. We won’t survive if we don’t have local content.”

At The Blackshear Times, a paper in rural South Georgia, the tariffs have prompted a hiring freeze, and about 25 percent of its open positions remain unfilled. The paper serves a community of about 19,000 people with a weekly print circulation of about 3,700 and a total readership of 7,000.

“The team is working harder for less money,” said Robert M. Williams Jr., the publisher and co-owner of The Blackshear Times and several other Georgia papers. “And not many people are happy about it.”

The paper has seen a stark rise in printing costs of 20 to 25 percent — a “whopping increase particularly for a small business that is already trying to combat decreased revenues and increased costs,” Mr. Williams said.
The paper has also cut down its page count — something readers have noticed and complained about. The circulation numbers have remained steady over the past several years — an anomaly given the sweeping national trend of falling circulations. On average, Mr. Williams said, only about a dozen subscribers sign into the website weekly to read the news online.

“‘In rural communities, print newspapers are still very important,’” Mr. Williams said.

Blackshear is in what Mr. Williams called a “news desert,” where there is no local news station and the closest big city is Jacksonville, Fla. Residents rely on the paper to stay informed on Georgia politics and connected with their community, Mr. Williams said. “‘There are no alternatives for The Blackshear Times in Blackshear, Ga.’”

Newspaper publishers are optimistic that congressional pressure could ease the tariffs. Legislation introduced in May by Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, would suspend the tariffs while Wilbur Ross, the commerce secretary, conducts a study of their effects on the industry. It has 31 bipartisan co-sponsors, and Representative Kristi Noem, Republican of South Dakota, introduced a companion bill in the House. Mr. Ryan has expressed his concerns about the tariffs to Mr. Ross, his office said on Wednesday.