



October:

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

AFCP Headquarters

Moves to New Digs

Denton Publications

Undergoes Transformation

THE SHOPPER SAVER

PennySaver Ex-Employees Involved in Launch



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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



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MISSION STATEMENT

Bring news and resources to the attention of the free paper industry by publishing a responsible quality magazine.

We are looking for **BLOOPERS** for the December issue! Send yours to DJNeuharth@aol.com today!

Free Paper INK is dedicated to keeping the industry informed on key issues, topics and industry news. If you have any items of interest that should be shared with people throughout the Free Paper Industry, simply email them to DJNeuharth@aol.com. We welcome your input, appreciate your readership and look forward to your contributions to our content.

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DEADLINES: The deadline for classified ads, display ads and editorial is the 4th of every month.

> Cover Photo: www.shutterstock.com

Whose voice do industry leaders seek?

Just ask them.

"Kevin Kamen works relentlessly. Whenever he speaks about the publishing business or companies, I pay close attention.'

- Paul Tash (Mr. Tash is Chairman of the Pulitzer Board and CEO/Chairman of the Tampa Bay Times.), August 1, 2014

"Kevin Kamen is one of the world's best-known and most-prolific brokers of media properties and companies."

- Gypsy C. Gallardo, CEO/Publisher of The Power Broker Magazine, July 30, 2014

Whose judgment do they trust?

"Kevin Kamen correctly predicted as far back as 2010 that a buyer would be willing to pay \$42 million to \$51 million for The Journal ... 'They paid about \$4 million to \$5 million more than they should have,' Kamen told WPRI.com ... Kamen suggested Gatehouse was motivated to pay a premium in part to ensure a competing newspaper chain didn't get The (Providence) Journal instead."

— Ted Nessi, WPRI 12, Providence, Rhode Island, July 23, 2014

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Vave Vauhorth

DAVE NEUHARTH

EDITOR

October is **Breast Cancer Awareness** Month

THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF FREE PAPER INK is devoted to Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Many publishers in the free paper industry devote space to articles and advertisements to increase awareness of this dreaded disease.

The color pink plays a big role this month and is the color of record for promoting breast cancer awareness.

The tradition started in 1991 when the Susan G. Komen Foundation handed out pink ribbons to participants in its New York City race for breast cancer survivors.

In 1993 Evelyn Lauder, a vice president of the Estee Lauder Companies, founded The Breast Cancer Research Foundation and established the pink ribbon as its symbol. The tradition lives on.

Some AFCP free papers support this tradition in a number of ways.

Metro Creative Graphics sponsors an annual award category, the Andrew E. Shapiro Award, which is based on all related features, special sections or pages and/ or online efforts to promote awareness or fund raising in the fight against cancer.

Several recent awards in this category include the Richland Center Shopping News in Richmond Center, Wis., who helps promote an annual "Walk with Grace" event. The Greater Richland Area Cancer Elimination (G.R.A.C.E.) group sponsors the walk which is held in memory of those who have died from cancer, in honor of those who have survived and in thanks to those who have cared.

Appen Media Group of Alpharetta, Ga., received the Shapiro award for its feature, "Life is Good," a series of Facebook posts chronicling the strength and spirit of a breast cancer survivor. The posts were

published in the paper.

The Coastal Breeze News in Marco Island, Fla., was awarded for publishing a large full color photo of the local high school soccer team wearing pink and displaying a large sign that read, "Crush Cancer."

The Katy & Cy-Fair Magazines in Katy, Texas, was awarded for its feature, "Finding Beauty Through the Battle."

The article featured the story of a 32-year-old teacher who had no history of health problems but was diagnosed with stage three aggressive breast cancer. She never thought she would hear the words, "You have breast cancer." The article detailed the unexpected blessings that came from co-workers, friends, family and even strangers, how having cancer helped her realize that her determination to beat it made her feel beautiful, and how important it was to savor every bit of life.

Action Unlimited in Concord, Mass., uses the color pink to donate to the cancer fund. Depending on the size of the ad, Action Unlimited charges \$10 or \$25 to use pink in an advertisement. The charge for color is donated to the cancer fund.



When INK's own Barbara Holmes was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013, the AFCP staff dressed in pink on the day of her operation to offer long-distance support.

afcp Headquarters Update

by Loren Colburn



Loren Colburn

 ${
m I}$ T SEEMS ALMOST

impossible that it was five years ago that we moved the office from Colorado to New York! Since our original office lease here in New York was a five-year lease and our landlord decided he had underpriced our space back in 2010, we should be unpacking in our new office location when this INK hits the street. The change of location will help us accomplish several things that are

noteworthy – saving money being the first and foremost – but sorting through, evaluating and discarding the unnecessary collection of things that we have accumulated over the years is the true silver lining.

Those five years have seen some significant changes in the industry, the association and each and every one of your businesses. Those changes have provided both challenges and opportunities for us all and by the looks of things, have made us stronger as we develop our business survival skills. I have to also say that I really don't think it makes a big difference what industry you were in during that period. The accelerated rate of change within the business environment has tested the survival skills of almost every business and every industry.

As the business model for network ad sales continues to change, AFCP and NANI will continue to look for funding sources to provide member benefits and the annual conference at the lowest cost to our members. With that in mind, we are pleased to announce the newest division of NANI services with the launching of National Cruise Planners Travel, a travel agency service we will be providing to members and offering through the NANI network to free paper readers across North America. The proceeds from this service will be used to support the NANI rebate program and additional member benefits. We are just getting this up and running now, but stay tuned for additional information and details in next month's INK as we are extremely excited about this newest service.

Please take a minute to update your records on our new address to avoid delays or lost communications for membership items, NANI audits and rebate details. The new mailing address is:

> AFCP / NANI 135 Old Cove Rd. – Suite 210 Liverpool, NY 13090

As always, we appreciate your support of AFCP and NANI and look forward to advancing our mission "to help its members enhance their profitability and be a leader in strengthening the free publication industry."





Post

Postal Pieces

by Donna Hanbery, Executive Director, Saturation Mailers Coalition

IN AUGUST, THE USPS HELD ONE OF ITS

quarterly Mailers Technical Advisory Council (MTAC) meetings with the mailing industry and posted a number of reports of interest to mailers and free papers that use the Postal Service for distribution. This column is a summary of some of the news of interest, MTAC announcements, and postings in the last month.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

One of the regulatory requirements covering the Postal Service under current law is the requirement to file periodic service perfor-

mance reports. These reports show whether or not the Postal Service is meeting its service performance targets for individual classes in mail products. The filing of the quarterly service reports can be found on the Postal Service website as well as its required filing with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC).

For another quarter, the Postal Service has failed to meet its service performance standards in many categories of mail including first class, much of standard, and for periodicals and newspapers. This report contained, for the first

time, a service performance report on the standard mail product known as EDDM Retail. Previously the EDDM Retail product was included with the aggregate figures for other types of Standard Mail. For the third quarter of the year, the EDDM Retail service performance report showed that it made its service performance standards for destination entry, two-day standard, delivering 79.02% of the time.

The Standard Mail quarterly report showed, for most postal products, a deterioration of Standard Mail performance over the same period of time last year. But for High Density/saturation flats and parcels, the USPS met its two-day performance standard of 91%.

Industry complaints, and particularly concerns coming from mailers and businesses in more rural areas, about declining service has fueled Congressional criticism of the Postal Services' performance and contributed to the current freeze on the additional closings of processing facilities. The freeze put a hold on this

year's planned reductions in facilities that were part of the 2015 network reduction plans of the USPS.

HOUSEHOLD DIARY STUDY

For another

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performance

standards in many

categories of mail.

Once again the Postal Service published its annual household diary study showing consumer use and response to the mail. Based on a detailed survey of 5,200 households and mail use, the study is designed to examine mail volumes, types of mail used, and business and consumer response to the mail.

The USPS delivers 45% of the world's mail. In line with past trends, the volume of pieces delivered

by the USPS declined in 2014 with a 1.8% reduction from 2013. The Postal Service delivered a total of 155.4 billion pieces of mail.

As it has in the past, the Postal Service and household diary study points out that the Postal Service depends on users of the mail and postage payers to support its network and universal service obligation. Although the number of pieces has declined each year, the Postal Service continues to expand the number of delivery points it must serve.

As in past years, the number of pieces of First Class correspondence and transactional mail declined. This

is in keeping with the electronic diversion of personal communications in transaction mail. In 2004 only 25% of all consumers would pay bills electronically. That number has now increased to 63%.

Advertising mail continues to represent a growing share of the mail – 62% of all household mail was advertising.

From the standpoint of American business, the commitment to direct mail as an advertising medium has remained relatively constant. In spite of the explosion of Internet and electronic media, direct mail continues to hold its own as an important piece of any advertisers' mail mix with advertisers spending, year over year, a fairly constant share of 10% – 12% of their advertising budget on advertising mail.

Although direct mail spending on advertising grew modestly by 5.4%, Internet spending continues to be the greatest area of growth, with an increase of over 15%.

Post

The Household Diaries study shows that advertising mail continues to attract the interest and response of consumers. Fifty-seven percent of responders stated that they read advertising mail. A smaller number scanned or paid some attention to the mail. Only 9% of responders stated that they did not read advertising mail. Read rates seem to decline slightly as households report greater quantities of advertising mail received.

A "BRAINY" LOOK AT THE VALUE OF THE MAIL

In recent weeks the Office of Inspector General (OIG) has released a neuromarketing study done

under contract with Temple University that evaluated how consumers respond alternatively to hardcopy mail versus digital advertising. The study evaluated the participants' responses to questionnaires, but also measured and tracked eye movement, core biometrics (through sensors placed on fingertips, heart rate, perspiration, motion and breathing) with brain scans revealing how different areas of the brain responded during a specific task or experience.

The participants were exposed to, or interacted with, 40 different physical or digital advertisements.

Later the participants were tested on their memory of ad content and their stated preferences and perceived value of the advertised products.

The highlights of the study suggest a more positive, stronger, and lasting response, including a greater desire to respond or "buy" to advertisements delivered in a physical mail piece. Some of these responses or desires were not perceived or acknowledged on a conscious level. Study participants often gave a similar response in questionnaires to the perceived value and interest of digital and physical ad content. But when physiological and neurological response were measured with an MRI to determine areas of the brain that were engaged in responding, it appeared that physical ads generated a stronger emotional response and a longer retention time.

It is anticipated that this study, and further studies that will consider age and demographic impacts

of different types of media, will be used for the Postal Service and industry to explore optimal use and combinations of digital and physical media.

2015 PROMOTION REVIEW AND 2016 PREVIEWS

Vice President of New Products and Innovation for the USPS, Gary Reblin, discussed 2015 promotions and potential 2016 promotions at the August MTAC meeting.

2016 promotions are currently under review. The Postal Service anticipates filing its proposed promotions for approval in early fall. The 2016 promotions

It is anticipated that

the 2016 promotion

calendar will include

promotions for

First Class mail that

are similar to what

was offered in 2015.

are likely to be similar to, and build upon, promotions like those in place in 2015 and continue to support the integration of mail with technology.

It is anticipated that the 2016 promotion calendar will include promotions for First Class mail that are similar to what was offered in 2015. The Postal Service plans to offer two emerging technology proposals that would be available for Standard Mail. With an emerging technology program for augmented reality, NFC, and advances in interactive pieces, and a separate emerging technology promotion that would be available

for tactical innovations in mail pieces, the Postal Service is also planning to offer standard mailers a mobile engagement/buy-it-now promotion.

Reblin also discussed a promotion concept that might consider an incentive for mail service providers that rewarded frequency and volume or bringing new business to the Postal Service. In concept, this appears similar to the previous incentives offered for growth of saturation and High Density mail programs. SMC has long advocated incentives or promotions that would help encourage mailers to expand their geographic footprint, or add frequency, via the Postal Service rewarding new business with a discount or incentive.

Time will tell if the 2016 promotion calendar or other incentives propose any rewards for saturation program mailers that promote and bring advertisers to the mail through their shared mail programs.

Set Sail for Success

by John Draper, Conference Committee Chair

PROVISIONING FOR ANY JOURNEY IS A PROCESS.

Whether the destination is personal or for one's business, without a plan we are subject to the influences of the wind taking us where it desires, regardless of our intent.

In the past few editions of INK, I have reviewed some of the provisions AFCP can provide for our journey. Educational courses will provide necessary knowledge and tools to help you plan the journey. Networking time allows you to make connections to broaden your knowledge and build the crew that will help you along the way.

A third key provision is food, drink, and entertainment. When Columbus set sail with three ships and 88 men, planning food provisions was of utmost importance. Here at AFCP we take very seriously our planning for this key third provision. Things are starting to take shape.

Thursday night we will venture outside the hotel for dinner and entertainment. We have reserved the USS Midway as our host location. This U.S. Navy aircraft carrier was commissioned in 1945 and donated to the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum Foundation in 2003. Now it is open to the public to learn of its great military history.

While aboard the Midway for dinner and entertainment, AFCP guests will be allowed to tour the craft, take in some history, or simply enjoy the great view of the San Diego skyline from the flight deck. On board attractions also include two flight simulators. These will be open for your use. The Air Combat 360 is a two person state-of-the-art simulator of a pulsepounding aerial combat ride where you control all the action. Air Combat 360 pilots can roll, somersault, spin and loop as they fly missions. Naval Combat Mission is a group motion simulator for up to 12 guests at a time, featuring a daring mission in Operation Desert Storm. For you night owls, the Midway is in close proximity to San Diego's famous Gas Lamp District. Venture out for a local flare of drinks and entertainment.

Friday night we will convene for dinner on the grounds of the San Diego Sheraton and Marina. Club AFCP will be open for business after dinner, so you



The imposing and dramatic flight deck of the USS Midway.

Photo Credit: USS Midway Museum

can continue to enjoy yourself while building connections with old friends and new acquaintances.

Gayle Alexander is again scouring menus and directing chefs so as to assure we keep body and mind nourished. It is this nourishment that will get us through the day and prepare you for the journey ahead.

So come along with us as we Set Sail for Success. We are putting together all the provisions for our journey. The only thing missing is you.



It's not perfect but it is better than Most

by Greg Birkett

WE ARE STILL OVER

one year away from the Presidential elections in 2016 but those of us in Iowa have already been

inundated with TV ads and personal appearances from the candidates. We have not even been allowed to enjoy a good corn dog at the state fair without the likes of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton invading our space to tell us to vote for them.

To top it all off, the primary elections are not until Spring. I guess an election cycle this long is good for the media – lots of ad dollars being spent and money spent on travel, speeches, and all the rest – but I still feel that it is a shame it takes so much money to become an elected official. Something seems amiss when that much money is spent to "win" a job that doesn't pay very well.

Donald Trump made headlines while he was in Dubuque by kicking a UNIVISION reporter out of his press conference. I heard that it really fired Donald up and he gave a very energized speech to a pretty large crowd.

Hillary Clinton had started campaigning in Dubuque very early on and some of my friends had been invited to go to house parties around the

area for small group gatherings with her. And the majority of the huge field vying for their party's candidacy have been trudging around Iowa spreading their messages, with Rick Santorum having been to all 99 counties in our state – all part of the process as Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucus status. I guess it is good business for our state so I can't complain too much about all this media attention; but I certainly wish we could get more of their budget in local print advertising.

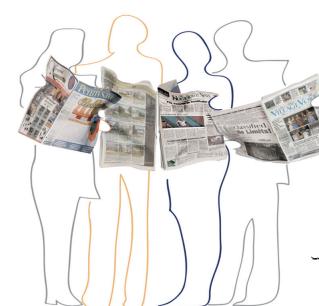
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In the end I hope we all come out of the process with someone who cares about our country and what is best for the American people. It seems to me that sometimes the best interests of the American people come second to doing what you can to stay in office. (By the way, my term as president is over in 2016).

We can certainly all complain; but the best

thing we can all do is to make sure we vote in our local, state and national elections because even though our process may not be perfect, it is better than most.

Vote early – vote often.



AFCP PRESIDENT

DUBUQUE ADVERTISER

Transformation Improves Recognition



Dan Alexander

RECENTLY THE SUN

Community News and Printing published by Denton Publications, Inc., in New York underwent a transformation intended to improve the recognition factor of their publishing company.

Owner and Publisher Dan Alexander noted that "With different publication names, a corporate name, a slightly abbreviated corporate name on our web site, seven other landing pages [with]

HE

fraction of our size, we are no longer 'those little Adirondack weekly newspapers.'

"It will take time to fully transition but we want you to be aware of just what we've been up to during our summer vacation, so that when you see us in the near

used to demonstrate our vast distribution throughout the

marks from advertisers, readers and elected officials who

"As we compete against media giants who are now a

Adirondack region. We are hearing many positive re-

have given us a solid thumbs up.

and name."

If you have any questions, email Alexander at dan@suncommunitynews.com.

future you'll be able to recognize our snappy new look

one for each zoned newspaper, unique names for our classified section and printing operation, customers and readers were frequently confused on just which papers or services we represented. Of course I haven't even mentioned special section names, season guides, and stand alone magazines.

"Frequently, I would begin a conversation after introducing myself and the company by asking where the person lived. After a curious look they might give me the name of their town, in which case I could say, you receive the _____ each week in your mailbox.

"You could see the sign of relief in their eyes as they turned bright. They could now connect the dots between the company name and the paper they receive each week. Usually followed by 'I love reading that paper' or 'Oh, you are that Dan Alexander.'

"As a result, the company has formally registered with the New York Department of State the names of each of their existing papers with THE [insert old name of newspaper] SUN. As an example: the Valley News is now The Valley News Sun."

As of August 8, 2015 the company begin marketing as the Sun Community News and Printing. Their corporate name remains Denton Publications, Inc.

The publications' new unified website was changed to www.suncommunitynews.com. Eliminated were all the separate newspaper landing pages (websites) which greatly simplified their identity.

Alexander said, "While The Sun is not a unique name it is short, with a highly recognizable icon that we've now



Shopper Saver: Ex-employees of PennySaver Involved in Launch

by Lauren Williams, Staff Writer, Orange County Register Reprinted With Permission

nySaver.



Elaine Buckley

Not too Long Ago, opening the mailbox on Wednesdays and sifting through piles of bills and fliers included parsing the pages of the stalwart Pen-

The well-known advertising circular was a staid presence that passed through the hands of millions of residents across Southern California, destined for the coffee table or the trash bin.

That abruptly ended when the PennySaver closed its doors on May 22.

But next week, that weekly standby may be back – under a new name.

Former employees of the shuttered coupon magazine are hard at work in a small Covina office to revive the defunct publication with the backing of new investors. The new name: The Shopper Saver.

Of the 30 employees who are working to resuscitate the mailer, the majority are former PennySaver workers who were laid off when it was shut down.

The closure of the ad and coupon magazine spawned a handful of other spinoffs, mostly in one or two ZIP code areas. The launch of Shopper Saver is the most ambitious of these efforts, with circulation expected to be more than one million across about 100 ZIP codes in a contiguous stretch from the San Gabriel Valley to the Inland Empire.

It is expected to expand into parts of north Orange County in a year.

In every respect except the name, the idea behind Shopper Saver is to restore what was lost when the now bankrupt PennySaver shuttered its Brea headquarters, said Elaine Buckley, a former PennySaver employee who is Shopper Saver's vice president of sales.

"It's the same DNA. Even the look, the touch, the feel – all of it," Buckley said.

"With a different business core behind it," chimed in

Ozzie Huizar, the company's vice president of operations.

Once a portfolio company of a Los Angeles-based private equity firm, the PennySaver closed without giving notice to its 678 employees. Employees received final paychecks that bounced, and suffered financial hardship. In the most extreme cases, former workers lost their homes and at least one postponed surgery.

For some, the Shopper Saver is a welcome relief from the job hunt.

Shopper Saver, much like its predecessor, will be published on newsprint and appear as a magazine booklet mailed directly to homes every Wednesday.

The interior of its new office gives it the feel of a startup launching the latest technology, rather than a company resurrecting an old-line business.

On a recent weekday, employees bent over laptops and plugged in earbuds, crowded into an office that still smells like fresh paint. Decor is sparse, adding to the feeling that there's no time to waste. The door leading to the second story office rarely stays closed, as the budding company prepares to grow into a neighboring office suite before the first issue hits doorsteps on Sept. 16.

The launch of the Shopper Saver can be traced to a Glendora electrician who once advertised in the Penny-Saver.

Alma Pineda, a realtor whose husband owns a business called Just Electric, noticed that when PennySaver disappeared, calls to her husband's business declined precipitously.

Her husband had advertised with PennySaver for 11 years, and it generated a steady stream of calls – sometimes up to 60 a day – to his business. But when the ad magazine folded, the calls dried up to just a few a day – sometimes less.

"It was a big difference," Pineda said. "It was kind of hard and kind of shocking."

Online ads and other classified publications didn't generate the same volume of customers.

"We didn't get any results," Pineda lamented.

Similarly, small Inland Empire business owners like Ubaldo Zepeda, who owns a smog shop, and Tony Shaw, Continued on page 14

In Memoriam: Jerry Watson Rolison



A LONGTIME MEMBER OF THE FREE COMMUNITY PAPERS OF NEW YORK (FCPNY), publisher Jerry Watson Rolison, died suddenly at his home in Mount Morris, N.Y., on August 17 at the age of 87

In 1959 he started the Mount Morris Shopper, which he owned and operated for 56 years. He remained at the helm until his death. He previously worked for his father at the Picket Line Post in Mount Morris.

FCPNY member and publisher of the Genessee Valley Pennysaver Steve Harrison said, "Jerry was instrumental in having Genessee Valley join the 4 County Group, which was at the time five publications that sold for each other in their respective territories. It also jump started our printing business, as we became their printer. He was a great guy and a very good trumpet player, which he practiced daily almost to the end."

Rolison was a member of the St. Patrick's Church and a member of the Mount Morris American Legion Post.

He is remembered for his musical talent. Rolison played the trumpet and sang vocals with various groups including The Dixie Cats and recently with the Quiet Tones.

Shopper Saver:

Ex-employees of PennySaver Launch New Product

Continued from page 13

a plumber, saw customer calls decline.

"I had to resort to going to a friend of mine that advertises elsewhere and taking calls from him," Shaw said.

Zapeda noticed a decline of up to 20 percent in his business.

"I was kind of sad that they went out of business, because we had a lot of people using the coupons I put in there," he said.

Thinking of her husband and other small business owners hurting for business, Pineda reached out to her former PennySaver sales rep, Kelly McClacherty, about launching a similar magazine with the financial backing of a few investors.

"She just called me one night and said 'We want to start a magazine like the PennySaver'," McClacherty, who was with the PennySaver for 33 years, recalled. "I said 'Just tell me when and where."

Pineda is now the CEO of Shopper Saver and McClacherty does production work.

Other former employees began joining the Shopper Saver – like Sandra Padilla, who was with PennySaver for three years until it closed. In the three months between the PennySaver's closure and the time she joined the Shopper Saver, Padilla occasionally worked as a notary for friends and family. But she didn't find a steady job selling ads again until she joined the Shopper Saver.

"It's an amazing feeling to have a job," Padilla said. "To see familiar faces was icing on the cake."

Upon learning of the new magazine, Zepeda signed up to advertise in the first issue.

"I said 'Great! Go ahead and sign me on," he recounted. "It's a good idea for us. The customers we get in the area look for those coupons."

Shaw said he felt some hesitation because of Penny-Saver's abrupt closure, but he's also optimistic.

"I'm excited to see what happens," he said.

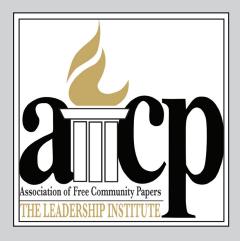
Employees like McClacherty are excited too.

"I'm just really anxious for the book to come out," she said. "It's like having a baby. It's not real until you see it."

The **LEADERSHIP** Institute

The Leadership Institute is a structured sales and sales management training program sponsored by the Association of Free

Community Papers.



To date, 1,814 free paper professionals have attended classes at the AFCP, state and regional conferences, earning over 10,935 class credits in 66 different course curriculums. A total of 81 people have completed all the requirements and been certified as Associate Advertising Executives (AAE) by the AFCP Board!

by Jim Busch

"Nothing but the mint can make money without advertising."

- Thomas B. Macaulay

AFTER MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS IN THE ADVERTISING

industry I should be thinking about my retirement, but I hardly give it a thought. One reason is that I still enjoy what I'm doing. Working in advertising gives me a chance to exercise my creativity which is immensely enjoyable.

Another reason I stick around is the satisfaction I get from helping people achieve their goals. The advertising industry as a whole gets a bad rap from the media and the public. Advertising is portrayed as "evil," using psychological manipulation to sell people things which they neither need nor can afford.

The critics of advertising neglect to mention the importance of the advertising industry to the national economy. In addition to the jobs and revenue produced by the industry, advertising helps other businesses maintain a level of sales which provides employment for everyone from factory workers and truckers to engineers and CEO's.

Without advertising, how would the public learn about the many new products which make our modern high-tech lifestyle possible? Few Americans had ever heard of a home computer before Apple aired its iconic "1984" commercial during the Super Bowl.

I am especially proud to work in the free and community paper industry. We provide a way for small local businesses to connect with potential customers. Our local papers give these entrepreneurs a chance to be a "big frog in their own little pond." Our papers give these small businesses, many family owned, an affordable way to tell potential buyers what they have to offer. We give them a tool which allows them to hold their own against the big box stores and national chains, which can afford to dominate the national media.

For many small businesses, their local free paper rep is much more than a vendor. For a small business that can't afford to hire an advertising agency, their local paper rep serves as their marketing department, their creative department and a trusted consultant.

We also play a role in helping our readers get through the week. Many a harried working mom counts on finding a great pizza coupon in our papers when she is running late and has to feed the kids before karate and ballet practice.

We should all be proud of working in an industry that not only provides us with a good income, but also makes the lives of our advertisers and readers significantly better.



Building a **Team**

by Amanda Goossen, Rising Star

CREATING A COMMUNITY

newspaper means designing a monthly product about the community, for the community, by the community.

Not always an easy task.

September 2015 marked my second year as the managing editor of Arcadia News.

On the day I was promoted from writer to editor, I somehow possessed a confidence that I was completely qualified for the job. Three

weeks later I sat behind my desk, fear oozing from my skin as we scrambled to get my first edition done, and wondering why I had once felt so prepared. The heart palpitations I experienced at night were one of the many signs that I had fooled myself into believing I could do something I had never dreamed of, let alone studied.

I took far too many deep breaths that month, trying to calm the rapid heart beat and trying to persuade myself I could do a job so many others already believed, without a doubt, that I was qualified for. It takes a lot of guts to promote a 30-year-old girl who never took a journalism class from a simple writer to leader of the pack. I had never managed anything but my two young children and a household, yet now I had the task of rounding up a group of writers and rallying them to write about the neighborhood.

When I took the reigns, I discovered that most of the writers and a good portion of our content was not from the Arcadia area. Yes, it was a Phoenix paper with Phoenix articles, but the Arcadia blood and spirit runs deep. I knew we could do so much better.

This meant tracking down the most interesting businesses, people and stories in the immediate area, and bringing in the perfect local writer to develop the content. I never expected, however, that one of the most difficult aspects of the job would be building a solid, local, freelance writing staff.

Locating writers who live, work or go to school in the area, yet have the time to research and write assignments while juggling



the rest of life's activities, proved challenging. Most freelance writers, we've discovered, either write for a plethora of news agencies or simply fit in their love of the written word between taking care of children or working a 9-to-5.

As many of us know, the budget of a community newspaper doesn't exactly allow for a long list of writers on salary.

At Arcadia News we have high standards for our printed product. Teaching a team of writers about our guidelines and requirements is often an ongoing project. Reteaching these items again and again each month to new writers was exhausting, not to mention a waste of time. I was determined to find another way. For my own

sanity, and the quality of the product, the revolving door had to end.

Thankfully, my determination for a more consistent team paired with the exceptional journalism school located only miles away led to a solution.

The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism is in downtown Phoenix, about a 15-minute drive from our Arcadia News offices, and is widely recognized as one of the nation's premier professional

journalism programs.

When I took on the role
of managing editor, I noticed
my inbox was alerting me

almost weekly of student writers seeking publication. As it turns out, the Cronkite School has a program that not only supplements my writing staff, but also eventually led to well-trained, dependable writers.

As the Cronkite School mentions on their website, "Located on Arizona State

University's downtown Phoenix campus, the Cronkite School leads the way in journalism education with its innovative use of the teaching hospital model, for which it has received international acclaim. The school's full-immersion professional programs give students opportunities to practice what they've learned in intensive real-world settings under the guidance of top-flight professionals."

To put it simply, while students attend college they must also publish their work for local newspapers; and by the time of graduation, they must complete internships with a local news organization.

The Cronkite School's dedicated Director of Career Services, Mike Wong, annually places more than

Nominate Your Rising Star Now!

by John Draper, Rising Star Program Chairperson

AFCP MEMBER PUBLICATIONS HAVE BEEN

making great use of the Rising Stars program since our first class was recognized in 2009. Add your name to the participant list by nominating a talented industry professional today. The nomination deadline is December 1, 2015. Nomination forms are available from the AFCP office or online at www.afcp.org.

"Encourage growth and teach leadership skills to young professionals." This simple mission of the Rising Stars program truly embod-

ies what the program is all about. Each year the AFCP Rising Stars are provided complimentary training and networking opportunities found at the annual conference. They participate in special sessions, attend all general sessions and work tract courses, and attend classes facilitated by The Leadership Institute (TLI).

After the conference, growth and skill development continues. Each month the Rising Stars maintain their peer connections through participation in a focused conference call. This affords them the opportunity to remain engaged as we digest industry topics and assigned video training lessons.

As a member benefit, it is hard to find one that offers as much to an individual and the publication alike. Whether pounding the streets in sales, developing graphic arts campaigns, instituting digital initiatives, or covering local news, the Rising Stars program offers leadership training to all.

We encourage you to take advantage of this great membership benefit by nominating your young professional for selection into the program.

These individuals should show the promise of, and a commitment to, impacting their publication and the industry in a positive manner through professional achievement. Nominees must also show they not only perform their jobs to a high standard, buy they also have a commitment to furthering their

knowledge and abilities. Nominees must actively work in the free paper industry for a member or associate member

of AFCP and are required to have been employed for more than one year. Nominees must not be older than 35 as of December, 31, 2015.

Recipients will be recognized during the 2016 conference in San Diego, California, where their training opportunities will begin. The nomination deadline is December 1, 2015. Nomination forms are available from the AFCP office or

If you have specific questions you can contact the office or AFCP board member and program chair-

AFCP office or AFCP board member and program chairperson, John Draper, at jdraper@pipestonestar.com. The consensus of the AFCP Board of Directors is

online at www.afcp.org

The consensus of the AFCP Board of Directors is that this move will keep with the program's mission. AFCP has invested much in this program and in other training platforms over the years. This program enhancement will allow publishers with qualified employees to capitalize on AFCP's investment in employee development.

Building a **Team** continued

500 students in internships at over 225 companies.

"My favorite thing about our program is seeing a student succeed at an internship and seeing that success lead to part-time or full-time work with the company. I have had alumni start as interns, get hired by the company and then sit on the other

side of the table interviewing current students for internships," said Wong.

Along with these internships, Journalism 301, an intermediate reporting class, requires students to be published with a news agency.

It sounds great. However, my first experience with many of the students looking for an internship

or a story to satisfy their writing requirements was a quick fix to a larger problem. Even though we spent an abundance of time training and teaching, Arcadia News was rewarded with only a single article or a little help for a few months.

The Arcadia News Writing Re-Continued on page 18

Associations the NEVS

ANTHER JOINT CONFERENCE IS IN the planning stages.

The Independent Free Papers of America (IFPA), the Southeastern Advertising Publishers Association (SAPA) and the Community Papers of Florida (CPF) have scheduled a joint conference September 28 – October 2, 2016, at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando.

"THE ELEPHANT IN The Room – The Reality of Digital" is the theme of the Mid-Atlantic Community Papers Association (MACPA) 2016 conference scheduled

at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Seven Springs, Pa., April 22-23, 2016.

Kevin Slimp will be the keynote speaker.

THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

(TLI) sponsored by the Association of Free Community Papers (AFCP) is moving forward with its Online Learning Center.

These self-directed programs can be completed from

your office during normal business hours or from any location at any time. Currently six sales training classes are offered, though 10 classes will be offered the future. Once a member earns 15 credits and passes the comprehensive

class offered annually at the AFCP Conference and Trade Show, an individual can earn certification as an Associate Advertising Executive.

For full details and to register go to www.afcp.org.

To submit your "associations in the news" story, please contact Dave Neuharth by fax (1.352.347.3384) or email: DJNeuharth@aol.com.

Building a Team continued

Continued from page 17 quirements and Intern Program was born to overcome this obstacle.

Looking at the holes we needed to fill, the issues I noticed when working with new writers (Cronkite students or not) and the things I hoped to fix in our production schedule, I came up with a plan.

Now, all hopeful writers (new students, 301 students, interns, someone wishing to become "the next great American writer") receive our guidelines. They learn the process, they develop within our schedule and our expectations, and we discuss their

strengths, their goals and their future.

Everyone writes at least one assigned story that is unpaid and a sample. We edit, they ask questions and we go through the process multiple times.

And when they are ready, they stay on for our small freelance rate or they move on. It's really up to them.

And almost every time, they stay on. Not because of the pay. Not because of the stature of a community newspaper, but because they feel like we invested in them. They feel like they are part of the Arcadia News team.

Mostly, because they are.

Last week, one of my first writers – my first real intern – said his goodbyes after working with us for two years. He's moving to California, where a highly respected master's degree program awaits him. As we said our farewells, I felt like a parent saying goodbye to my child. Learning of his accomplishments and knowing just how far he had come was both heartwarming and heartbreaking.

But I keep one thought in my back pocket every time one of my writers moves on: Two years ago, someone took a chance on me. Reciprocating that is the greatest feeling in the world.

Never **Assume**

by TIM BRENNAN, MultiAd

I had the good fortune to travel to a New

market this past week for four-legged sales calls to non-advertisers with a newspaper client. Of the eight preset appointments we struck unused co-op funding in each and every location. It was really like shooting fish in a barrel.

In each case, the business owner simply had no time to do the discovery on the do's and don't's of the co-op plan and really had no desire to take time

out of their busy schedule to reach out to the manufacturer contact for understanding. All of these businesses were successful in their own right, yet were willingly wasting hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars in manufacturer ad support. Based on our authorized accrual research after the fact and basic math in presentations (About how much business have you done this year with this brand? Well 1% of \$500,000 is \$5,000), we estimated that those eight non-advertiser calls had more than \$40,000 in co-op money with the potential for over \$60,000 in advertising solutions. Some of these accounts were not advertising anywhere at all, but hopefully now they will be.

These local dealer assumptions were not unique to this market nor are their

challenges in understanding the manufacturer co-op policies totally unfounded. There are likely several businesses like these in your market with similar feelings. Their thinking is that the co-op plan is mysterious because the manufacturer doesn't want them to use it, which is not the case at all. The key is making it easy for these beleaguered business owners who are as cut to the bone as we are.

One: Do the math for them. Roughly estimate their co-op accrual by multiplying "about how much business they do with the brand" by the plan's accrual percentage. Then do the math for them on how much more reach and frequency they could get with their advertising by including co-op.

Two: Show them how it looks. Work out spec creative for them with each media product that makes sense for them. What would a newspaper

ad look like? How about a single-sheet insert? And hey, what about a banner ad linking to a landing page with your newspaper ad?

Three: Explain how they get paid back. Co-op is like a rebate program for advertising where they have to submit all of the documentation to get credit on their account. If you can, offer to get them the needed documentation and the claim address to send it.

Don't be afraid to ask questions and never assume your accounts are well schooled in co-op. If you haven't seen them running brand materials in their ads, chances are that they're just like the eight accounts I saw. And I'm thinking that \$60,000 would help your budget goals also.

This information is provided by agreement with AFCP and MultiAd Recas to help

take the mystery out of co-op advertising. For more information or your Recas.com Co-op username and password (a benefit of AFCP membership) along with the AFCP Co-op Lead email, contact the AFCP office at 877-203-2327.

Based on our authorized accrual research after the fact and basic math in presentations, we estimated that those eight non-advertiser calls had more than \$40,000 in co-op money with the potential for over \$60,000 in advertising solutions.



Newspaper Pet Peeves

Readers weigh in on what ticks them off

by Kevin Slimp

While preparing to lead a webinar for a newspaper

association up north last week, I took a survey of newspaper subscribers and nonsubscribers to find out what their biggest pet peeves are about newspapers. After looking over the results, I realized that most of the information is just as valid for free papers as it is for our paid brethren.

So last week, just one day before the webinar, I created a survey about customer service at newspapers and asked Facebook friends, not affiliated with the newspaper industry, to complete the short questionnaire. I hoped maybe 20 or 30 would take the time and give me some fresh, interesting information to use during the webinar.

I was pretty surprised to learn that more than 200 folks had completed the survey over the next few hours and their answers weren't exactly what I expected. Of the respondents, 38 percent reported subscribing to a newspaper, while 62 percent answered that they did not.

Next, I asked subscribers: "What are your biggest pet peeves concerning your newspaper?"

By a large margin, "Not enough local content" took the prize. A full 38 percent of newspaper subscribers answered that lack of local content was their biggest pet peeve.

OK, that might not have been a huge surprise. However, their response to the second question did shock me. Just under 22 percent of newspaper subscribers answered that "Poor writing" was their top pet peeve. Honestly, I didn't think poor writing would crack the top five.

Delivery problems and poor design tied for third, with each receiving 13 percent. Billing and other problems followed in single digits.

And what about people who don't subscribe to a newspaper? "Poor writing" took the top spot with a hefty 37 percent responding that was their top pet peeve.

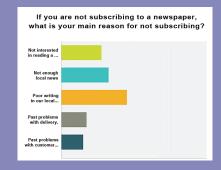
The number two reason respondents gave for not subscribing to a newspaper was "Not enough local news," at 27 percent.

Finally, I gained some useful insights from the nonsubscribers which could be used in my customer service webinar. A full 26 percent answered that their main reason for not subscribing was either "Delivery problems" (14 percent) or "Customer service" (12 percent).

When asked about the price of newspapers, 51 percent of nonsubscribers responded that "The price is too high."

Next week, I'll be working with a daily paper in Indiana for a couple of days. What did I learn from this survey that will make me a better consultant for that paper?

First, a large number of subscribers and nonsubscribers feel



Most of the survey respondents left optional comments. Here's some of what they want us to know:

"Our paper used to be the go-to venue for finding out about upcoming events and now I'm forced to tediously search Facebook groups for upcoming events."

"They simply stopped delivering. I received no bill, no courtesy call. Two weeks after receiving no paper, I received a 'sales' call to sell me a new subscription."

"The Morning Call was once a good paper. Now the writing is bad, the customer service is bad (missed a paper and was on hold forever) and the price is too high for the quality."

"A lot of news is readily available online, so it's hard to justify a newspaper subscription, especially when people post the most relevant information from the newspaper's page."

"I hate seeing all the staff cutbacks at the newspaper. A lot of stories don't get covered, or at least covered from a local perspective because of this."

"I live in a large metropolitan area but the paper I subscribe to is the smaller suburban one."

"No point in subscribing when I can get it free on the Internet."



there is not enough local news in their newspapers. That didn't surprise me and it's been on my checklist.

Second, there is more concern over writing than I had suspected. Sure I figured Mrs. Feathers, my high school English teacher, lost sleep over writing quality. But a large percentage of both groups, especially nonsubscribers, seem to feel that poor writing is a major problem with their newspapers.

I will probably stress good design a little more than I have in the past. If 13 percent of readers say their biggest pet peeve with their newspaper is poor design, then it seems like something we should all watch closely.

For paid newspapers, it might not seem like there is a lot we can do when folks feel like the price is too high. But when I look more closely at these numbers, I realize that for a good number of subscribers and nonsubscribers, the price might seem high because they feel like the quality isn't where it should be.

What would I suggest to you? Go through this checklist and see how your paper would score using the classic school grading system, with "A" for excellent, "C" for average and "F" for failing. Rate your paper on the following:

____ Local content

____ Writing

____ Design

____ Delivery issues

____ Customer Service

How did your paper score? I would suggest that every newspaper should score an "A" if it wants to remain viable in today's marketplace.

Some fixes are easier than others. And obviously, good writing, local content and strong design affect readers of free papers just as in paid papers. Go through this list with your staff and see which area could be addressed most quickly and make a plan. Then begin to create a long-term strategy to guide your newspaper toward an "A" in each of the five areas.

Kevin Slimp is director of the Institute of Newspaper Technology, a training program for newspaper designers, publishers and technical staff. For more information concerning the Institute, please visit www.newspaperinstitute.com. To read past columns, visit www.kevinslimp.com.

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Association of Free Community Papers 7445 Morgan Road - Suite 203, Liverpool, NY 13090 Call (877) 203-2327 or visit afcp.org



Widgets and AD CHOICES

by John Foust

Let's say you're considering the

purchase of a new widget. Your current widget is working okay, but you know that there have been some new innovations lately and you'd like to see what's available. So you go to a meeting which features widget manufacturers.

You notice a couple of things when you walk into the room: (1) A lot of people are vying for your attention and (2) They seem to fall into four general categories. Let's take a look at what you encounter in that crowded room:

- 1. The guy with the loud, plaid sport coat, white shoes and a big cigar. His approach is big, bold and obnoxious, just like his outfit. It's his strategy to make you look at him before you notice anyone else. Yesiree, Bub. He'll shout and jump up and down on his display table until you give him your attention. And if you happen to glance at someone else while he's talking, he'll slap you on the back and claim that his widget is the best in the history of widgetry. The banner over his booth reads, "For all your widget needs." His favorite words are "unbelievable" and "fantastic." He has exclamation marks on his tie.
- 2. The lady making balloon animals. Instead of talking about widgets, she's tries to dazzle you with glamour and artistry. "Now that I have your attention, let me make another balloon animal. How about a rhinoceros? That will really impress you. Our widgets? Oh, they are top-notch. But let's not talk about that. Let's focus on my creativity. Stand here in front of my booth for a while, and I'll make a pelican on roller skates."
- 3. The guy making deep philosophical statements. He must be talking about widgets, because he's in the widget room

- but you're not completely sure. His favorite sayings seem to be "We make life good," "Making goodness for 50 years," and "Goodness is really good." He doesn't have a booth. He just wanders around saying seemingly profound but empty words.
- 4. The lady with lots of information. Her banner has a clearly defined benefit statement. Her company literature describes the ways her widget can solve specific problems for prospective customers. And she shows a genuine interest in each customer who stops to talk. She's the opposite of the other three people. She's not trying to out-shout the competition, she's not trying to grab anyone's attention with razzle dazzle, and she's not making vague product statements. She communicates concise, relevant information about her line of widgets.

Which widget person would you rather talk to? The shouter, the dazzler, the vague sloganeer or the person who understands what you need from a widget?

Each of these four people represents a particular style of advertising. There are ads that shout to get your attention, ads that are artsy and off topic, ads with meaningless words – and ads which focus on the interests of specific target audiences. Which style has credibility? Which style works? The answer is obvious.

(c) Copyright 2015 by John Foust. All rights reserved. John Foust has conducted training programs for thousands of newspaper advertising professionals. Many ad departments are using his training videos to save time and get quick results from in-house training. Email for information: john@johnfoust.com.

ON THE HORIZON



oct.

SYRACUSE, NY: OCTOBER 5-6, 2015

Free Community Papers of New York (FCPNY). Conference & Leadership Summit, Genesee Grande Hotel, downtown Syracuse, N.Y. For information contact Dan Holmes: dholmes@fcpny.com.

TBA, WI: OCTOBER 7, 2015

Wisconsin Community Papers (WCP). Publisher's Summit, October 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., location to be announced. For information contact Janelle Anderson, janderson@wisad.com.

WEST DES MOINES, IA : OCTOBER 16, 2015

Midwest Free Community Papers (MFCP). Fall Conference, the Sheraton Hotel, West Des Moines, Iowa. For information contact Dick Colvin: dick@mfcp.org.

LAS VEGAS, NV: OCTOBER 21-22, 2015

Association of Free Community Papers (AFCP). Executive Committee Meeting, NANI Board Meeting and Fall AFCP Board Meeting. The AFCP Board Meeting will take place on Friday, October 22nd while the other meetings will be on the 21st. For information contact Loren Colburn, loren@afcp.org.

2016

SEVEN SPRINGS, PA: APRIL 22-23, 2016

Mid-Atlantic Community Papers Association (MACPA). Annual Conference, the Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Seven Springs, Pa. For information contact Alyse Mitten, info@macpa.net.

SAN DIEGO, CA APRIL 28-30, 2016

Association of Free Community Papers (AFCP). Annual Conference & Trade Show, Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina on the shoreline of San Diego Bay, San Diego, Calif. For information contact Loren Colburn, loren@afcp.org.

ORLANDO, FL:

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 2, 2016

Independent Free Papers of America (IFPA), Southeastern Advertising Publishers Association (SAPA) and Community Papers of Florida (CPF). Joint Conference, the Caribe Royale All-Suite Resort, Orlando, Fla. For information contact Douglas Fry, info@sapatoday.com, or Dave Neuharth, djneuharth@aol.com.

2017

LOUISVILLE, KY APRIL 20-22, 2017

Association of Free Community Papers (AFCP). Annual Conference & Trade Show, Gait House, downtown Louisville, Ky. For information contact Loren Colburn, loren@ afcp.org.

To list your conference information in Free Paper INK, send it to: DJNeuharth@aol.com

To list your conference information on the AFCP website, send it to:

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Kylah Strohte

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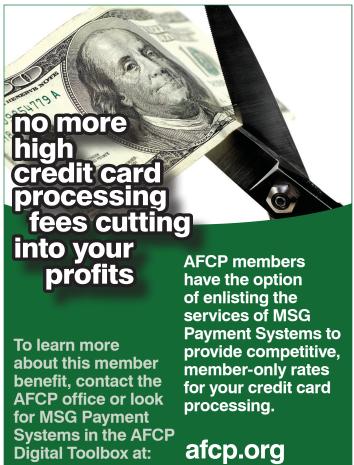
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