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Storm damage update from Clay Co. News in Sutton...

NPA received an August 11th update from Tory Duncan, Clay Co. News' managing editor, about the storm damage that impacted their newspaper offices (on July 29).

According to Tory, newspaper staff is in for the long haul at their current, long-term temporary office location at the Sutton Police Dept., 122 South Saunders in Sutton.

As of the 11th, staff hadn't yet heard from the structural engineer or their insurance provider. According to Tory, the front 1/3 of the building roof will have to totally be replaced, front building facade suffered heavy damage and will probably need to be completely redone, and offices had significant water damage, which will require reframing/sheet rock replacement.

One bit of good news... 'Scoop' the News' resident cat of 15+ years (unofficial mascot & designated office greeter), was not injured in the storm. In fact, when Tory was able to get into the building the morning of the storm, Scoop was sound asleep in Tory's office chair, and Tory startled him - so Scoop *may* have slept through the storm!



Have you earned your press pass?



The web-based course, *Earn Your Press Pass*, teaches the fundamentals of journalism.

Thanks to funding from the NPA Foundation, the course is available to all Nebraska Press members/staff at no cost.

Earn Your Press Pass began as a cooperative project with Kansas Press Association and Lindsey Young, part owner of Kansas Publishing Ventures, which operates four community weekly newspapers in south central Kansas. Lindsey, a former high school teacher, has experience instructing students in everything from English to public speaking to journalism.

Earn Your Press Pass is intended to fill the gaps for newspapers having difficulty recruiting trained journalists. The course provides new hires the information and structure they need to sit down and complete lessons that teach the basics of good journalism. Everything from common newspaper terminology to story writing to media laws are covered in the lessons. The course can also serve as a 'refresher' for current staff.

Course details are attached to the Bulletin.

Since NPA began promoting the course in May, 32 staff from 19 different member newspapers have signed up for *Earn Your Press Pass!*

HERE'S WHAT ONE NPA PUBLISHER HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE COURSE:

"I have one employee who has been through the course once and now going back a second time for review. I can see improvement in her work. Highly recommend it."

Contact Susan Watson, nebpress@nebpress.com or Violet Spader, vs@nebpress.com to sign up.

Marion Co. Record - from pg. 1

The Record also faces legal costs — both from fighting back against the raid and, potentially, future legal action it can (and, in our view, should) take against the authorities who violated its First Amendment rights. The Society for Professional Journalists (SPJ) has pledged to cover up to \$20,000 in legal fees for the newspaper.

You can donate to SPJ's Legal Defense Fund <https://my.spj.org/donate?reload=timezone> and earmark your pledge for the Record by checking the "Dedicate this Gift" box and writing "Marion Record" in the name field when you donate (for now, SPJ has a banner on top of its site specifically for Marion donations to make it even easier).

2. Honor the memory of Joan Meyer

Record co-owner Joan Meyer's funeral was planned for Saturday, August 19. Before she died, Meyer condemned the raid on the Record as "Hitler tactics." According to her son, she also asked repeatedly, "Where are all the good people who are supposed to stop this from happening?"

Let's honor Meyer's memory by making sure something like this doesn't happen again. Speak out on social media in memory of Meyer and in support of press freedom on Saturday.

According to Max Kautsch, counsel to the Kansas Press Association, "Kansas Press Association members from across the state planned to honor Joan by attending her services on August 19. "KPA will show our support by simply showing up and celebrating the life of Joan and supporting Eric [Meyer] and the Marion County Record," Kautsch said.

Meyer's family has also asked that donations in her memory be made (<https://www.hillsborofreepress.com/daily-life/death-joan-wight-meyer>) to the Kansas Newspaper Foundation in care of Jost Funeral Home at P.O. Box 266 in Hillsboro, Kansas 67063.

3. Pressure Marion Police and government officials over the raid

The raid has been widely condemned by press freedom organizations, journalists, and news media outlets, garnering national and international attention. According to Kautsch, "Due in no small part to the outpouring of support for the Marion County Record in the aftermath of the search of its newsroom, the government officials responsible for the raid ought to have a better understanding of the First Amendment this week than last."

But we can't allow this story to fall off the radar as the public, press, and officials move on to the next day's news.

The warrant may have been withdrawn, but the government isn't being transparent about what happened or how police could get a search warrant for an apparently illegal raid — which authorities now admit had no connection to any alleged "crime" — in the first place. Police have refused to answer questions from reporters about the raid. There are also questions

about Cody's own past that need answering, especially given that the Record was reportedly investigating him before the raid.

This lack of transparency is wrong. The raid itself was wrong. If you live in Kansas, write to your government officials to ask them to demand transparency, including the immediate release of the search warrant application and a full investigation into how the raid came to be. Wherever you live, write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or post on social media to call attention to the raid and other press freedom violations. Call on the Department of Justice to investigate potential violations of constitutional rights, as it has in other instances where police suppressed protected speech. Use your voice to speak up for press freedom.

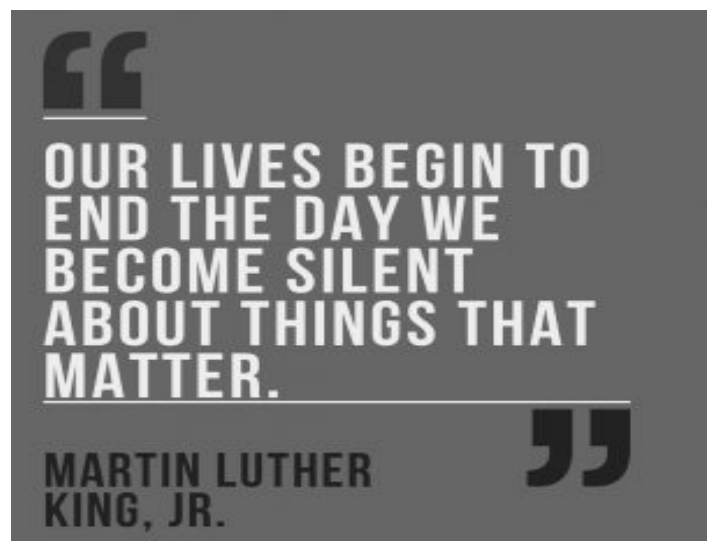
In addition to helping the Record, support local journalism in your own community

The Record is just one example of a local newspaper punching far above its weight to inform its community. Consider supporting journalism in your own area by subscribing to a local news outlet or making a donation to a local nonprofit newsroom.

Contact your member of Congress to urge them to support the Community News and Small Business Support Act, a bill that would also go a long way toward increasing funding for local journalism (<https://freedom.press/news/lets-shore-up-funding-for-local-news/>). While we hope no other newsroom will face a similar situation to the raid on the Record, it's important to ensure a thriving local press that has the resources to protect itself and resist pressure from police or others.

The Marion County Record is fighting back in the face of this stunning assault on its First Amendment rights. Now is the time to take a stand and show them "the good people" are with them.

Attorney Max Kautsch is quoted in this article. Max serves as legal council for the Kansas Press Association, the Nebraska Press Association and Media of Nebraska.



EDITORIAL

Newspaper search and seizure unnecessary

Washington County Enterprise, Blair, NE, August 18, 2023

Picture a scene of police bursting through the door of a local newspaper office, and then they proceed to search the place and confiscate computers, hard drives and cell phones of reporters.

From there they proceed to the newspaper publisher's home where again they confiscate more computers, cell phones and other documents, all while the publisher's 98-year-old mother sits in horror watching it all unfold. Sadly, the mother dies the next day from the effects of the stress of the event.

You might think to yourself that this happened in Russia, or China, so what's the big deal? But sadly, this actually happened recently to a small town newspaper in neighboring Kansas.

Eric Meyer, owner and publisher of the Marion County Record said police were motivated to conduct their search and seizure by a confidential source who leaked sensitive documents to the newspaper. He said the message was clear, "Mind your own business, or we're going to step on you."

It was reported that the city's entire five officer police force and two sheriff's deputies basically took everything the newspaper needed to publish their next edition, and it wasn't clear how the newspaper staff would get the paper to press that week.

Yes, there was a search warrant, and the raid was part of an investigation into the alleged identity theft of a restaurant owner who had clashed with the paper.

There may be more to this story that hasn't been released, but whatever the final facts find, this likely was not a matter of national security, or anything that should justify this type of action by the police.

Even though the Privacy Protection Acts protects journalists from search, the Marion Police Department argued that the law doesn't apply when journalists are thought to be involved with criminal activity.

According to a report in the Kansas Reflector, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press sent a letter to Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody, that reads in part: "Newsroom searches and seizures are among the most intrusive actions law enforcement can take with respect to the free press, and the most potentially suppressive of free speech by the press and the public."

The letter was co-signed by more than 30 news organizations including the Associated Press, Bloomberg news, Gannett, Kansas Press Association, New York Times, NBC news, the New Yorker, Reuters and the Washington Post.

We're sure if offered the opportunity, 99% of the news organizations and newspapers would add their names to that list, including all the newspapers of the Enterprise Media Group.

Editorial reprinted with permission.

Have a Legal Question?

Call the Nebraska Press Association Legal Hotline

Max Kautsch,
Attorney at Law
Phone 785-840-0077
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kautschlaw.com



785-840-0077

The Nebraska Press Association's **LEGAL HOTLINE** is provided **FREE** as part of your annual NPA membership dues. Solid, prompt legal advice on questions about closed meetings or courts, public records, Letters to the Editor, employment law issues, etc. Contact Max Kautsch, NPA's **LEGAL HOTLINE** attorney.



EXAMPLES OF HOW OUR MEMBERS PROMOTED THIS JUNE EVENT - COMING SOON!

Classified Advertising Exchange

August 21, 2023

REPORTER/PAGE DESIGNER: The Norfolk Daily News has an immediate, full-time newsroom opening that involves mostly writing and reporting with a couple of days on the copy desk as a page designer. Applicants should have a degree in journalism or demonstrated experience with newspaper or other media outlets. Page design experience is preferred.

The Daily News is a family-owned news organization with a six-day-a-week newspaper and comprehensive mobile and social media presence. Applicants looking for a competitive salary, strong fringe benefits package and a great working environment are encouraged to email editor@norfolkdailynews.com or call 1-877-371-1020.

NEWSROOM: An east-central Nebraska media company has an immediate opening in our newsroom. Journalism is more than just meeting coverage and being a stenographer. Help our readers get to the rest of the story.

We are a family-owned company with two weekly newspapers in Polk and Nance counties. We offer competitive pay and paid vacations. Recent graduates are welcome to apply. Email your resume to sparrowpubs@gmail.com.

**Attached to this issue of the
Bulletin:
'Earn Your Press Pass'
course details.**

Advertising in the Classified Advertising Exchange is no charge for NPA members and \$10 per week for non-members (approximately 25 words). It's a great way to sell or find equipment, hire a new employee, advertise a service you provide, sell or buy a newspaper. Only Nebraska member newspapers may advertise for help wanted for Nebraska newspapers. No out-of-state help wanted advertisements accepted.

Mail, email or fax us your ad copy by noon Friday for the following weeks' Bulletin. Contact Susan Watson in the NPA office: (402)476-2851/NE: 800-369-2850, or email: nebpress@nebpress.com.

‘Earn Your Press Pass’



Nebraska Press Association member newspapers now have access to a new training tool in the form of *Earn Your Press Pass*, a web-based course that teaches the fundamentals of journalism. ***The course is being provided to all Nebraska Press members at no cost.***

Earn Your Press Pass began as a cooperative project with the Kansas Press Association and Lindsey Young, part owner of Kansas Publishing Ventures, which operates four community weekly newspapers in south central Kansas. Previously a high school teacher, Young has experience instructing students in everything from English to public speaking to journalism.

Earn Your Press Pass is intended to fill the gaps for newspapers having difficulty recruiting trained journalists. The course provides new hires the information and structure they need to sit down and complete lessons that teach the basics of good journalism. **Everything from common newspaper terminology to story writing to media laws are covered in the lessons.**

The entire course consists of eight lessons and includes over 30 topics. People can go at their own pace and complete the course at their convenience. Young designed *Earn Your Press Pass* as a reference guide for anyone who wants to write for a local paper, and the course can also serve as a ‘refresher’ for current staff.

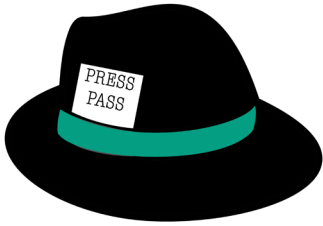
***Earn Your Press Pass* course covers:**

- Interviewing Skills
- Associated Press Style
- Types of Stories
- Writing Techniques
- Newspaper Jargon
- Journalist Rights & Ethics
- Effective Editing
- Newspaper Photography
- Additional lessons will be added in the future

Not intended as a college-level course, the goal of *Earn Your Press Pass* is to impart practical, usable knowledge to participants in a straight-forward and comprehensive approach. Lessons are designed to prepare community journalists to best serve their local newspapers, without a formal degree.

Learn more at <https://earnyourpresspass.com/> and find out what the course can offer you, your newspaper, and your staff.

Members interested in the course should contact Susan Watson, nebpress@nebpress.com to request access. Once you've been signed up through NPA, you'll receive an email from Earn Your Press Pass to set up your login (email address and create your own password), and you're ready to view the course!



Earn Your Press Pass Outline



- I. Introduction
- II. Newspaper Jargon
 - A. Parts of a newspaper
 - B. Other terms to know
- III. Interviewing
 - A. Who should I interview?
 - B. Preparing for an interview
 - C. Conducting an interview
 - D. Interview follow-up
 - E. Source problems and issues
 - F. Let's practice.
- IV. Types of Stories
 - A. Newsworthiness
 - B. News-writing basics
 - C. Breaking and hard news stories
 - D. Covering a meeting
 - E. Working a press release
 - F. Writing a feature story
 - G. Covering sports
 - H. Opinion writing
- V. Writing Techniques
 - A. Writing on deadline
 - B. Fun with leads
 - C. Using quotes
 - D. Headline writing
 - E. Outline writing
 - F. Thinking outside the pyramid
- VI. Associated Press Style
- VII. Editing
 - A. Tips for effective editing
 - B. Revising and rewriting
 - C. Let's practice.
- VIII. Journalist Rights and Ethics
 - A. Your right to know
 - B. Avoiding libel
 - C. Journalism ethics
 - D. Contradictions of community journalism
- IX. Photography
 - A. Taking good photos
 - B. Editing photos
 - C. Dealing with submitted photos
- X. Final Bits of Advice
 - A. Keeping yourself organized
 - B. Preparing files for layout
 - C. I have nothing to write about. Help!

**This is the outline as of Sept. 15, 2022.
There are plans to edit and expand as time goes on.**

Earn your press pass

Victoria Holmes | for Editor & Publisher

Victoria Holmes | for Editor & Publisher

Lindsey Young developed an on-demand journalism training course for news organizations to utilize when onboarding reporters. It's called "Earn Your Press Pass" and aims to address staffing issues in the news industry.

"Once you get out into western Kansas, it's really hard to convince a young kid that just graduated from a journalism school to move out to a little town of 900 people and work out there," said Young.

Lindsey and her husband, Joey, are co-owners of Kansas Publishing Ventures, which publishes four weekly newspapers. Hiring is an issue common among her peer group. Instead of convincing graduates to move to smaller markets, Young and her husband talked about training invested community members or freelance writers to write for a local paper. This course helps someone with strong research and writing skills to produce a story that can be publishable.

"I have a section on interviewing. There are 'types of stories' and 'different techniques.' I talk about AP style. I talk about ethics," said Young.

The entire course consists of eight lessons and includes over 30 topics. People can go at their own pace and complete the course at their convenience. Young designed "Earn Your Press Pass" as a reference guide for anyone who wants to write for a local paper, although it can be handy for those a few years into their career.

"We've had newspapers that have said, "Man, I know some seasoned journalists who can really use this as a refresher too," said Young.



Young, her husband and other news executives first discussed enrolling potential hires in courses at a local university. But, with Young's background in teaching, she decided she could put together a course without involving campuses.

"I was a high school teacher for 10 years. I taught journalism, public speaking and English. Back then

I had worked with newspapers, and I'm full-time with the newspapers now," said Young.

Even with her high-school teaching background, she did not include any extraneous work.

"I made sure I didn't include quizzes. I didn't include homework because my thought process was that people will have homework and they will have quizzes. They're going to that city council meeting, then writing a story, and their editor is going to be looking at it," said Young.

Young shared insight into her background and how that might help new hires starting off in journalism. For example, one lesson in the course is interviewing, which can be tricky for anyone starting out.

"When we're in school, you think about an interview as being this overly formal situation. The best advice I give is that an interview is just a conversation with somebody."

The course launched on Sept. 1, as a member benefit of the Kansas Press Association. The goal is to sell the course to other press associations for use in their associations. If you want more information, contact Joey Young at: joey@kspublishingventures.com.



Victoria Holmes is a freelance journalist and writer based out of Dallas, Texas. Previously, Holmes worked as a TV news reporter and political podcast host at WNCT-TV in Greenville, North Carolina. Reach out to her on [Twitter](#).