



## ***The Brainerd Dispatch* makes history as smallest newspaper to win the mighty Vance Trophy**

*The Brainerd Dispatch* became the smallest newspaper ever to amass enough points in MNA's Better Newspaper Contest to take home the Vance Trophy last week at the 157<sup>th</sup> Annual MNA Convention

The coveted Vance Trophy honors Minnesota's best outstate multi-day newspaper. The *Dispatch* earned 44 awards – 21 first places – in the 2022-2023 Better Newspaper Contest on its way to snagging the Vance. Brainerd won the General Excellence, General Reporting, Best Website, Best Magazine, Best Special Section and more in its circulation class. Publisher Pete Mohs is shown accepting the award from MNA President Chad Koenen Thursday, Feb. 1. [Read more here.](#)



## ***The Globe* takes Mills Trophy home to Worthington**

*The Globe* of Worthington came out on top of the competition to win the Mills Trophy, honoring Minnesota's best weekly/non multi-day newspaper. *Globe* Publisher Joni Harms (at podium), Editor Julie Buntjer (with trophy) and Advertising Director Anna Rogers accepted the award for their newspaper's work during the contest period – Oct. 1, 2022-Sept. 30, 2023.

"What a tremendous honor this is to bring the Mills Trophy to Worthington," *Globe* Publisher Joni Harms said. "We feel so grateful to be recognized among our peers."

*The Globe* won 22 awards in the contest, including 12 to the newspaper and 10 individual awards. [Read more here.](#)

The Mills and Vance trophies are awarded based on points earned for awards in the Better Newspaper Contest. Wins in key overall awards including General Excellence carry higher point totals; points are also awarded to the newspaper for individual awards earned by its staff.

*The Record* of the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University won the College Division General Excellence award.

**Award-winning entries and judges comments for the entire Better Newspaper Contest are now available [at this link.](#)**

## **Spears honored with Distinguished Service to Journalism Award**

Mankato Free Press Editor Joe Spear was honored at the convention Friday with the Al C. McIntosh Distinguished Service to Journalism Award, MNA's highest honor. He was honored for

his decades of work to advance free press issues in Minnesota, most recently helping to secure improved access for visual journalists to Minnesota's courts. He was honored during the Friday luncheon and congratulated by U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (the 2017 honoree) and Gov. Tim Walz, who both spoke at the event.

**Also at the MNA Convention last week, five new members were inducted into the MNA Half-Century Club for completing at least 50 years of service to newspapers.** They are: Steve Carlson of The Park Bugle, Linda Forseide of Page 1 Publications, Steve Kohls of the Brainerd Dispatch, Mike Kosik of The Star Post (Albany), and Edward Pawlenty of the Annandale Advocate, Maple Lake Messenger and Battle Lake Review.

## Miller elected 143<sup>rd</sup> MNA president, Douglass joins boards

Crystal Miller, publisher of the *Albert Lea Tribune* and the *Austin Daily Herald*, was elected president of the Minnesota Newspaper Association, Friday, Feb. 2, during the association's annual. Miller is the 143rd president of MNA. She succeeds Chad Koenen of Henning Publications, who served two terms as president. Koenen will transition to the position of immediate past president on the MNA Board of Directors.



Justin Lessman of the *Jackson County Pilot* is the association's new first vice president, Tara Brandl of the *Tracy Area Headlight Herald* is second vice president and Kelly Boldan of the *West Central Tribune* of Willmar is MNA's third vice president. Other directors are Steve Jameson, publisher of *The Free Press* of Mankato, Bill Gaier of *Finance & Commerce* and Ted Almen of the *Kerkhoven Banner*. The newly elected Tim Douglass, publisher of the *Pope County Tribune* in

Glenwood, serves as treasurer.

The directors also serve on the board of the Minnesota News Media Institute along with at-large members Doug Hanneman, editor emeritus of the *Hutchinson Leader*, and Elisia Cohen, director of the Hubbard School of Journalism at the University of Minnesota.

## Notables join MNA at convention

Keynote speakers and special guests joined MNA members throughout the convention. U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who kicked off the Friday luncheon, highlighted her work on federal bills intended to support journalism. She also highlighted the importance of community journalism to society:

"You are telling the stories that maybe not everyone knows about, that they don't read on Facebook," she said. "Many of your stories uncover what happened at the city council meeting and tell people which business is opening and closing. There are a lot of stories of joy, positive stories of our communities – whether they're big or small..." said Klobuchar. "So I just want you to remember that piece of it, of telling the stories of regular citizens in your communities. That brings strength and brings people together in a big way, just as much as your role of uncovering the truth for us. So don't let us forget that piece that we're losing right now in our nation and the role you play in finding that thread that brings people together."

Gov. Tim Walz reprised his 2023 visit, also speaking at the Friday luncheon before keynote speaker Steve Grove outlined the Star Tribune's vision for the Minnesota journalism landscape. He expanded on the Star Tribune's ideas for expanded coverage and collaboration across Minnesota.

Thursday's luncheon crowd honored keynote speakers Patty Wetterling and Joy Baker with a standing ovation.



## **NEWSROOM: SEO Best Practices That Will Get You Immediate Results**

Are you keeping up with changes in Google's search algorithm? This session, led by digital content consultant David Arkin, will dive deep into the changes that Google has made and what you need to do to ensure that your content isn't left behind. David will provide tactics that newsrooms should be using to keep up with the changes from keywords to headlines to images. You'll leave this session with practical strategies that will help you win the local SEO game.



Arkin is the owner of David Arkin Consulting, and has built a wealth of experience serving as a reporter, editor, director, consultant and executive for newspapers, magazines, television stations, media associations and news start-ups. He has worked for GateHouse Media (now Gannett), Graham Media Group, the Local Media Association and CNHI. He has been named the Digital News Innovator of the Year by the Local Media Association, led numerous newsrooms to national journalism awards and has served on national industry boards like the Associated Press Media Editors and the Local Media Association Foundation Board.

The Online Media Campus webinar is 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15. Because of generous donations to the Minnesota News Media Institute, MNA's nonprofit training arm, MNA members can access this event FREE (normally \$35 per person) by emailing [member@mna.org](mailto:member@mna.org) to obtain the access code. Register for the session by [clicking here](#).



## **NEWSROOM: Using Social Media To Build Your Brand and Connect With Your Audience**

**Ty Rushing**, co-founder and president of the Iowa Association of Black Journalists and senior editor of *Iowa Starting Line*, will share some tips, tricks and examples in this live webinar of how he and others have used social media to grow their digital presence and develop a reciprocal relationship with an audience.



Rushing is a Kansas City, Kansas, native who broke barriers as the first Black reporter and/or editor at eight Iowa print publications across the state. He's profiled prominent community leaders and politicians from all over the state and has been featured as a guest and subject on CNN, MSNBC, Iowa Public Television, Iowa Public Radio and other media outlets. He has been nominated for a regional Emmy for his work in cooperation with IPTV.

The Online Media Campus webinar is 1-2 p.m. Thursday, March 14. **Because of generous donations to the Minnesota News Media Institute, MNA's nonprofit training arm, MNA members can access this event FREE (normally \$35 per person) by emailing [member@mna.org](mailto:member@mna.org) to obtain the access code.** Register for the session by [clicking here](#).



## Minnesotan on E&P's 25 Under 35 list



Eli Lutgens, of EJM Publications and Pioneer Publications, has landed on Editor & Publisher Magazine's 25 Under 35 list. Lutgens, 26, is the publisher of the *Waseca County Pioneer*, *NRHEG Star Eagle* and Southern MN Golden Link.

The list recognizes innovative young people in the industry. Lutgens said he believes the future of print is integrating digital. "If print media hopes to remain viable in this changing landscape, it must create a fluid connection with digital elements while retaining reader trust and loyalty," he said. [Read more here](#).

# MNA Job Bank

GET A JOB. GET A HIRE.

**MNA Member Classifieds are free to MNA members. Submit your ads on the [Member Classifieds page](#). The charge for non-members is \$25 per week.**

## **Managing Editor**

O'Rourke Media Group is looking for a Managing Editor for our publications in Cannon Falls, Hastings and Red Wing, Minnesota, and Hudson, Wisconsin. We are seeking someone who has excelled at leading a newsroom and someone who can lead our team of reporters and editors to continue producing relevant local content each and every day. [More...](#) (2/5)

## **News Reporter**

This role will be responsible for producing engaging, relevant stories and/or visuals in a variety of formats on all relevant publishing platforms, with an emphasis on digital content and publishing. Essential functions: Research and report on assigned topics and issues; determine story focus and write/produce stories according to editorial and AP style and format standards (1/12) [More ...](#)

## **Staff Writer**

Press Publications in White Bear Lake is seeking a staff writer to join its award-winning team. As a staff writer, you will be responsible for coordinating editorial content and layout for our newspapers and website. In addition to writing stories, the job will require attending local meetings, taking photographs, assisting with the layout process, writing occasional editorial (1/9) [More ...](#)

## **Advertising Director**

Do you want to live in the heart of lakes country with endless opportunities and experiences just down the road? If so, the *Citizen's Advocate*, *Frazee-Vergas Forum* and *New York Mills Dispatch* are seeking a multimedia sales person to join our staff. We are a family-owned company that offers a competitive wage, vacation, flexible schedule and a fun work environment. (1/5) [More ...](#)

## **Editorial Assistant**

The purpose of the editorial assistant position is to be a back up to the editor of the *North Pine County News* which covers the Hinckley, Sandstone, Finlayson and Askov areas, and the editor of the *Pine City Pioneer*, by putting the papers together and formatting copy used for publication. The position is also one that writes stories and takes photographs for [More ...](#) (12/14)

## **Community Editor**

ABC Newspapers in Coon Rapids is looking for a community editor to join our team in the north metro of the Twin Cities. This full-time position is based in our Coon Rapids office and includes coverage of local government beats, business, breaking news, in-depth feature stories, photography and layout. We are looking for someone passionate about community [More...](#) (12/13)

## **Public Safety Watchdog**

The *Post Bulletin* in Rochester, Minnesota, seeks a talented and purpose-driven reporter to cover its public safety beat. This premier position produces the highest readership of any beat in our newsroom. It involves coverage of

local law enforcement and the judicial system. We have transformed this beat in recent years from having a traditional focus on the day-to-day activities of law [More ...](#) (11/27)

#### **Editor**

Rourke Media Group is looking for an editor for the *Hastings Star-Gazette* in Hastings, Minnesota. We're seeking someone who is passionate about telling stories that matter to our community — someone who is fair, accurate and ethical. O'Rourke Media Group is a rapidly growing company that continues to invest in journalism. You'll be joining a super-talented team of reporters and editors [More...](#) (11/20)

#### **Star reporter**

Come be a Star! Star Publications is seeking a reporter to cover general news and human interest features in Central Minnesota. Responsibilities include working with editors and teammates to develop content for print and online publications. Qualified candidates must have the ability to meet deadlines, travel for interviews, write content while following AP style, take photos [More...](#) (11/16)

## **For Sale/Wanted**

#### **Film dryers wanted**

Wanted: reel film dryer and film drying cabinet, ideally in working order. Will pay cash and pick up at your location. Jmbrownimages@gmail.com, 1-608-247-1532

#### **New Presses, Expanded Capacity at Northstar Media**

Northstar Media in Cambridge has just completed a two-year web press expansion project. The company replaced mono presses with 4-highs, added more presses and splicers, expanding capacity and offering the opportunity to print 32-page tabs with color on every page. The expansion compliments printing and mailroom services at the centrally located plant. [Click to see it in action \(video\)](#), then call Rick at Northstar Media, 651-407-1236 or email [printing@northstarmedia.net](mailto:printing@northstarmedia.net).

#### **Weekly newspaper for sale**

For sale: Free weekly tabloid newspaper in Minnesota lakes area. 1,500 circulation mailed out to area post offices and also newsstands. Legal newspaper for two school districts, four cities, five townships. Owner looking to retire. Will provide assistance for three months. Call (320) 834-4924 for more information. (12/13)

#### **Newspapers for sale**

For sale by owner: Successful newspaper group and printing company in northwestern Minnesota. Good advertising and subscription support for the four newspapers and well - established accounts for the printing department (offset and digital). Includes U.S. Post office in-house and three-bedroom apartment. Contact [dick4richards@gvtel.com](mailto:dick4richards@gvtel.com) or call 218-230-8812. (11/20)

*More job opportunities can be found [here](#).*

*Please notify MNA at [member@mna.org](mailto:member@mna.org) once your job is filled or item sold. Listings will be removed after 90 days.*