



# Bulletin



## Save the Dates!

**Natl. Newspaper Assn.  
Foundation Convention  
& Trade Show**  
September 26-28, 2024  
Embassy Suites, Omaha, NE  
(downtown Old Market)

**NPA 2025 Convention  
is in Kearney,  
April 25-26**  
Younes Conference Center  
North & Crown Plaza Hotel

**CONTACT INFO:**  
Telephone: 800-369-2850 or  
402-476-2851  
FAX: 402-476-2942  
E-mail: [nebpress@nebpress.com](mailto:nebpress@nebpress.com)  
Web Site: <http://www.nebpress.com>

## Members connected, celebrated and had some fun at this year's 2025 NPA Convention!



Congratulations,  
Master Editor-Publisher  
Willis Mahannah of West Point.



Harpst Leadership  
Nebraska Award Recipient,  
Jenny Higgins, Orchard  
Antelope Co. News,  
with Don Harpst, Jr.



Newly elected NPAS/  
OnePress President, Dee  
Klein, North Platte Telegraph,  
(left) presents Marcia Hora,  
Stapleton Enterprise,  
with a Husker football, signed  
by Coach Matt Ruhle, for  
serving as NPA president



**Congratulations to all  
NPA Better Newspaper  
Contest & Special  
Award winners!**



# NPA/OnePress Staff



## Dennis DeRossett

Executive Director

Email: [dderossett@nebpress.com](mailto:dderossett@nebpress.com)

## Jerry Raehal

Chief Growth Officer

Email: [jerry@nebpress.com](mailto:jerry@nebpress.com)

## Violet Spader

Sales & Marketing Director

Email: [vs@nebpress.com](mailto:vs@nebpress.com)

## Susan Watson

Member Services/Press Releases

Editor, NPA Bulletin

Email: [nebpress@nebpress.com](mailto:nebpress@nebpress.com)

## Lindsey Tederman

Sales Development/Project Management

Email: [lindsey@nebpress.com](mailto:lindsey@nebpress.com)

### NPA Legal Hotline

#### Max Kautsch

Attorney at Law

Phone: 785-840-0077

Email: [maxk@kautschlaw.com](mailto:maxk@kautschlaw.com)

Over \$7,000 was raised for NPA Foundation high school & collegiate scholarships during live auctions at the Friday & Saturday banquets. Husker athletes, Josiah & Bekka Allick added excitement and \$\$\$ to Friday night's auction.



**Thursday night's NPA Foundation Fundraiser Cornhole Tournament was fun, competitive, and...corny!**

**NPA Convention photos were taken by Mike Carnes, Jeremy Buss & Julie Koch.**





# It's a wrap

## Another great NPA convention is in the books

We just put another great convention in the books. Months of planning, weeks of preparation, and several days of set up went into putting this year's convention together.

Despite all the planning, there are some things that are just out of our control, though.

Who would have imagined the Huskers would decide to switch dates and move the annual Spring Game to our weekend?

And who would have dared to think that nine tornadoes would sweep down out of the sky and torment our state on our opening day?

But we got through it, and most ended up with some interesting stories to tell about the experience.

Some of our publishers even had a chance to meet some University of Iowa baseball players and some Northwestern University softball players as they huddled with us in the basement of the Cornhusker Hotel.

While the individual member surveys are still coming in, preliminary reports show our 151st Nebraska Press Association Convention was a successful one.

I hope our members enjoyed the programs and were able to take advantage of the social events, too.

There's just nothing better than having the opportunity to talk with other publishers and editors from around the state.

If you didn't go, you really missed out on some great photo and writing tips. You missed out on some digital ad sales ideas and you missed a great opportunity to meet our newest Nebraska Press Association employee - Jerry Raehal, our new Chief Growth Officer.

Jerry most recently hails from Louisiana, but cut his teeth in the newspaper business just west of here in Wyoming and Colorado. He brings a plethora of digital sales knowledge and expertise, as well as an enthusiasm for community newspapers. He is a great addition to the

Nebraska Press Association, especially in these changing times.

So, yes, if you missed the convention, you missed a lot of great learning opportunities and a lot of fun.

Fear not, though, you have another chance at taking in educational programs and learning from your peers — this time on a national stage, as the National Newspaper Association annual convention is slated for Omaha, Sept. 26-27.

We are really excited this national event is coming back to Omaha, and we're hoping Nebraska newspaper folks take advantage of this great educational opportunity.

We've been to a dozen or so NNA conventions, and we never fail to bring some great ideas back to our news rooms and ad sales departments.

What we have really discovered is that we're not alone out there. Across the U.S., community newspapers are all having similar issues, loss of ad revenue, diminishing subscribers, the rise of digital advertising, and the never-ending battle with the U.S. Post Office.

Peggy and I, as well as LuAnn Schindler of Clearwater, have been busy helping the NNA folks put together a one-of-a-kind event — an event in which we can all take pride and hopefully, take home some ideas that will help us deal with some of these issues. And, the real bonus, make friends across the country.

Also, nothing is 100 percent firmed up, yet, but I can tell you this, we are trying to line up a couple of journalists who have been in the news lately. These folks are used to writing the headlines, but recently have found themselves making the headlines. It should be great to hear their stories.

If you can't make the NNA event, the Nebraska Press Association convention is back in Kearney next year.

I hope to see you in Omaha in September, and Kearney next April.

**ROB DUMP**  
NEBRASKA PRESS  
ASSOCIATION  
PRESIDENT



***Even the Fairy Godmother attended convention this year!***



# OnePress names Raehal as Chief Growth Officer

Nebr. Press Assn., April 24, 2024

Jerry Raehal has been named as the Chief Growth Officer at OnePress, the marketing arm of the Nebraska Press Association (NPA).



Raehal will start full-time for OnePress on May 28. As the Chief Growth Officer, Raehal will be responsible for coming up with custom solutions for clients, driving revenue for OnePress and to NPA members with existing solutions and developing news ones, as well as providing coaching and training to NPA members.

Raehal's career is marked by a series of leadership roles across various media organizations. Most recently, he served as the Executive Director of the Louisiana Press Association (LPA) & Louisiana Press Marketing (LPM) in Baton Rouge, LA, a position he's held since September 2020.

"I'm incredibly excited and humbled to have the opportunity to join the NPA and OnePress teams," Raehal said. "We think there is a lot of potential for growth. I look forward to working with clients and members and doing my best to help their businesses grow."

During his tenure at LPA, Raehal played a pivotal role in leading, advocating for, and advancing the interests of over 100 media members. The trade association underwent significant changes, developing a business plan as if it were start-up, relocating, upgrading software, and developing new inbound and outbound marketing strategies.

Raehal took over as LPM's Ad and Marketing Director in November 2021, and helped drive B2B sales and marketing initiatives, retooling and remarketing offerings to achieve significant increases in digital revenue in 2022. He led the development of several new revenue products.

Prior to his roles at LPA & LPM, Raehal held key leadership positions at the *Glenwood Springs Post Independent* in Glenwood Springs, CO, the Colorado Press Association (CPA) & Colorado Press Network (CPN) in Denver, CO, and the *Laramie Boomerang* and *Rawlins Daily Times* in Wyoming.

Throughout his career, Raehal has demonstrated a consistent ability to drive profitability, improve employee morale, and enhance community engagement.

NPA executive director Dennis DeRossett said, "We are delighted to welcome Jerry Raehal to the OnePress team. Jerry's extensive experience and proven track record of success makes him an invaluable asset as we continue to innovate and grow in the media industry and serve Nebraska's community newspapers."

Raehal holds a BA in Journalism from the University of Northern Colorado. He and his wife Jamie have been married 21 years, and they have two teenage sons.

In addition to Raehal joining NPA, DeRossett also announced two other staff changes. Susan Watson, long-time director of member services, will be retiring later this

summer. Violet Spader, currently the director of sales and marketing, will become the new director of member services. The Nebraska Press Association represents 146 member newspapers across the state and celebrated its 150th anniversary year in 2023.

# Ownership of Dakota Co. Star to change hands in June

Dakota Co. Star, May 2, 2024

Current *Dakota Co. Star* Managing Editor, Michael Carnes will take ownership of the South Sioux City-based newspaper in June, when current Star Publisher, Jason Sturek (Sturek Media, Inc.) hands over the keys to Carnes and his own Mikey C Productions, LLC.

Carnes has been the Star's managing editor since 2019, and has operated his own freelance business in Northeast Nebraska since 2016. Sale of the Star closes on May 31.

Carnes' first experience in the newspaper industry came as a part-time sports writer for his hometown newspaper, *The Milford Times*, while he was still in high school in 1983. From there, he has worked in both the newspaper and radio industries in Nebraska for most of the past 41 years, including work in Milford, Fairbury, Plainview, York, Papillion, Norfolk, Gretna, So. Sioux City, Ogallala, and Wayne.

Carnes earned his education at Southeast Community College and credits former *Milford Times* owners, Fran and George Seely for identifying his writing talents and taking him under their wing.

Sturek Media, Inc. will continue to operate *The Pender Times* in neighboring Thurston County.

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## Postal Service pauses North Platte operation changes until 2025

*NTV News, May 13th; Updated May 14th 2024*

Washington, D.C. — The U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy confirms that the U.S. Postal Service will pause the movement of mail processing operations, which includes the facility in North Platte, until January of 2025.

Earlier this year, USPS announced that it would be transferring some mail processing operations to the Denver P&DC in Colorado. On May 8, they announced it would be going into effect. Several government officials spoke out shortly after urging them to change plans.

According to Senator Deb Fischer's office, she sent a letter to Postmaster DeJoy last week urging him to pause this plan until they could be further studied by the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) and addressed by the Postal Service. After DeJoy confirmed the services would be paused,



Fischer stated: "The USPS 'modernization' plan failed to consider the impact on rural communities like North Platte and could have slowed down the very mail service it attempted to modernize, which is why I asked the Postmaster General to delay the plan for implementation. For now, no changes should occur at the North Platte facility. This pause should allow more time for the plan and its impact to be studied. I encourage USPS to take the next year to listen to people in communities like North Platte and to incorporate their feedback into any changes that occur after January of 2025."

Senator Pete Ricketts also stated: "The Postal Service's primary responsibility is to provide timely and reliable delivery to every community across our country. Modernization plans should improve customer service, not reduce it. I'm glad the Postmaster General listened to our call to delay implementation of the changes to the North Platte facility. The voice of rural Nebraskans must not be neglected in future plans."

### **North Platte Facility Background:**

- On January 10, USPS published a notice that it was conducting a Mail Processing Facility Review of its processing operations at the North Platte P&DC.
- On March 11, USPS announced its initial results of the facility review, including plans to transfer some mail processing operations to the Denver P&DC in Colorado.
- Currently, the North Platte facility processes and distributes all mail in Nebraska west of the city of Cozad to the Wyoming border, north to the South Dakota border, and into portions of northern Kansas.
- On Thursday, March 28, USPS held a public meeting to share the initial results of the study and allow members of the community to provide additional feedback.
- On Tuesday, May 8, USPS announced it will transfer operations of the North Platte Mail Processing and Distribution Center to Denver, Colorado, and convert the North Platte facility to a Local Processing Center.
- On Wednesday, May 8, Senator Fischer sent a letter to Postmaster DeJoy urging him to delay the proposed changes until their impact could be further studied and better understood.
- On Monday, May 13, Postmaster DeJoy confirmed that the USPS would pause its planned changes and wrote that an updated plan would resume in 2025.

## Plainview family new owners of Albion, Petersburg newspapers

*Albion News, May 8, 2024*

After 17 years of ownership, Jim and Julie Dickerson sold their *Albion News/Boone Co. Tribune* and *Petersburg Press* newspapers earlier this month.

The new owners, Brook and April Curtiss, are Plainview-area natives, and have been involved in the newspaper industry since early 2004, when they became editors of the *Plainview News* - and where Brook had started his newspaper career in his final years of high school.

After two years of training under the Warneke family - Lee, and then Kent and Kevin Warneke - the Curtiss' purchased the Plainview newspaper in 2006, and Brook became one of the youngest publishers in Nebraska, at age 24. The Curtiss' have added more newspapers to their group over the years - the *Atkinson Graphic* in 2012, the *Crofton Journal* and *Niobrara Tribune* in 2014, and also the *Wakefield Republican* in 2014.

In the *Albion News* article, Curtiss said his "business model" was one that continued the tradition and legacy of having a local newspaper, staffed by local people, and covering local news.

Current Albion, Petersburg and Newman Grove staff will remain at the papers, and local Albion staff will be needed. The newspaper mailing schedule, digital and online services will continue as is.

The Dickersons have been owners/publishers of newspapers since 1978, and have been active in Nebraska newspapers for 50 years. Jim began his newspaper career in 1974 as a sports editor of the *Sidney Telegraph*, then a reporter at the *North Platte Telegraph*, before joining the *Albion News* as editor in 1976. After being at the Albion paper for 2 1/2 years, the Dickersons purchased the *Elgin Review* in 1978.

Julie became co-publisher at that time, and they owned and operated the *Elgin Review* for over 29 years before selling that newspaper to the current publishers, Dennis and Lynell Morgan, in 2007.

Jim and Julie plan to continue assisting the Curtiss' through the transition in May, and through the summer as needed.

## NNAF's 138th Annual Convention and Trade Show: *Champions of Democracy*

**September 26-27, 2024**

**Embassy Suites Omaha Downtown/Old Market  
555 So. 10th St. 68102**

NNAF's Convention and Trade Show will address pressing business objectives of community newspaper owners, publishers and senior staff with educational sessions and peer-sharing activities, and the opportunity to connect with newspaper vendor partners.



Watch for details on NNAF Convention sessions, special events & participating vendors.

**For more information, and to register for the NNAF Convention, go to:**

**<https://nna.formstack.com/forms/nnaconvention>**

## NNA wants comments from newspapers on postal rates!

The National Newspaper Association is asking newspapers to help as it prepares to fight the Postal Service's never-ending rate increases. This summer, the Postal Regulatory Commission will review the regulations that permit USPS to require postage increases twice a year, and NNA is preparing to comment on that PRC review.

**Please submit your comments by June 1st to NNA on how and why the postal rate hikes of the past few years have hurt your newspaper. Newspapers do not need to be an NNA member to comment.**

Newspapers can fill out the few fields in this Formstack form and it will be uploaded into letter form (please upload your logo as well, to personalize it). NNA will do all the work on their end. **OR** papers can download the letter (link in Formstack form) and edit themselves and email to Lynne Lance: [lynne@nna.org](mailto:lynne@nna.org), **OR** write your own letter and email it to Lynne. All will be included with a letter from NNA on letterhead and sent to the Postal Regulatory Commission. **If you have a group of newspapers, you only need to fill out one form & upload a file with a list of their newspapers to include.**

**[https://nna.formstack.com/forms/usps\\_nna\\_letters](https://nna.formstack.com/forms/usps_nna_letters)**



## Small-town publishers return to stave off demise of oldest weekly paper in Nebraska

*In case you missed this story...*

In October 2023, longtime newspaper publishers Ron and Bev Puhalla came back to take over the Pawnee Republican after the buyer of the paper quit suddenly.

**The April 30, 2024 story, was written by Paul Hammel, Nebraska Examiner:**

<https://nebraskaexaminer.com/2024/04/30/small-town-publishers-return-to-stave-off-demise-of-oldest-weekly-paper-in-nebraska/>

## Two inducted into Nebraska Press Women 2024 Hall of Fame

*By Barb Batie, Nebraska Press Women, April 25, 2024*

A veteran small town newspaper editor and publisher and a college news bureau director and journalism instructor were the 2024 inductees into the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame during ceremonies held April 20 at the Nebraska Press Women's (NPW) spring convention banquet at the Dawson County Museum.

Osceola native Velma Price was a posthumous inductee, honored for her 35 years as editor and publisher of the Newman Grove Reporter, as well as serving as Nebraska's first president of the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) in 1955.



Price earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nebraska in 1935 and 1938, respectively. She taught in Polk and Merrick Counties for 12 years, served as grade school principal in Valentine High School for one year

and then taught high school for seven years at Newman Grove.

In 1942 she entered the world of journalism when she married Frederick W. Price, owner and publisher of the Reporter. Less than a week after returning from the NFPW convention where she was elected the national organization's president, her husband died from a heart attack, thrusting her into the roles of editor and publisher of the Reporter, a position she would hold for 35 years.

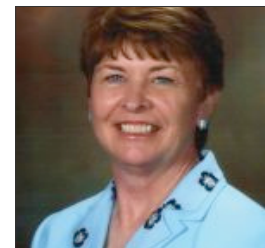
Active in her community Price used the lessons of involvement to pave the way for women journalists and encourage women to stand up for their rights through her column, "Observations."



The second inductee was Glennis Nagel. She has been a journalist since the day she became editor of her high school newspaper in Goodland, KS, where she graduated with the Class of 1961. Nagel earned a bachelor's degree in English literature with an emphasis on journalism from Ft. Hays State and a master's degree at Kansas State University (KSU).

Her writing career included a part-time stint at the Hays Daily News while working on her undergraduate degree and working for the Manhattan Mercury during graduate school. When she arrived in Kearney she was hired as the first female city editor at the Kearney Hub. After a stop at KGFW Radio hosting a talk show and cutting commercials, she was hired as director of the first Kearney State College News Bureau, a position she held until her retirement.

Throughout her career she trained many college students in the basics of good journalism, and wherever she worked in the communications field, she made the places and their products better.



Nagel has been a member of NPW and NFPW for more than 50 years, having served as a state officer, including president, or a board member for many of those years. She is currently the NPW print-related public relations director.

Nebraska Press Women formed the Marian Andersen Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame in 2011, with six women in the inaugural class. The purpose of this hall of fame is to recognize the working women journalists, who through talent, initiative, intelligence, persistence and stamina, have made a difference for the profession, for their communities and for those who follow in their footsteps. The hall of fame is sponsored by and named for the late Marian Andersen, a graduate of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The hall of fame is located at the UNL College of Journalism & Mass Communications in Andersen Hall.

# Classified Advertising Exchange

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May 13, 2024

**NEWSPAPERS FOR SALE:** Group of three weekly newspapers covering north central Nebraska and south central South Dakota. Includes strong commercial printing, newspaper web press and association with two shoppers. Will consider selling newspapers separately. Motivated seller. Call 402-760-2764.

**NEWSPAPER FOR SALE:** The historic Garden County News in Oshkosh has been part of the fabric of western Nebraska since 1910. This award-winning publication is near Lake McConaughy, and the hunting paradise of the North Platte River Valley.

The publication serves the panhandle of Nebraska and beyond, including the communities of Lewellen, Lemoyne, Oshkosh and Lisco. It is a booming economy of cattle producers, irrigation, dryland farming, and commerce. It is an outstanding opportunity to run a thriving business and live in an outdoor paradise of hiking, hunting and fishing. Call Buddy Paulsen at 308-778-6229.

**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](mailto:nebpress@nebpress.com).