

# The car of our future?

Now roaming the streets of Shelby and the highways of Cleveland County is what may be the prototype of newspaper reporting and communications of the future.

The Star has successfully launched "The

Star Car," a first-of-its kind mobile online newsroom and newsgathering device. The newspaper believes this flashy yet practical tool will redefine how news is delivered to the audience.

### What is it?

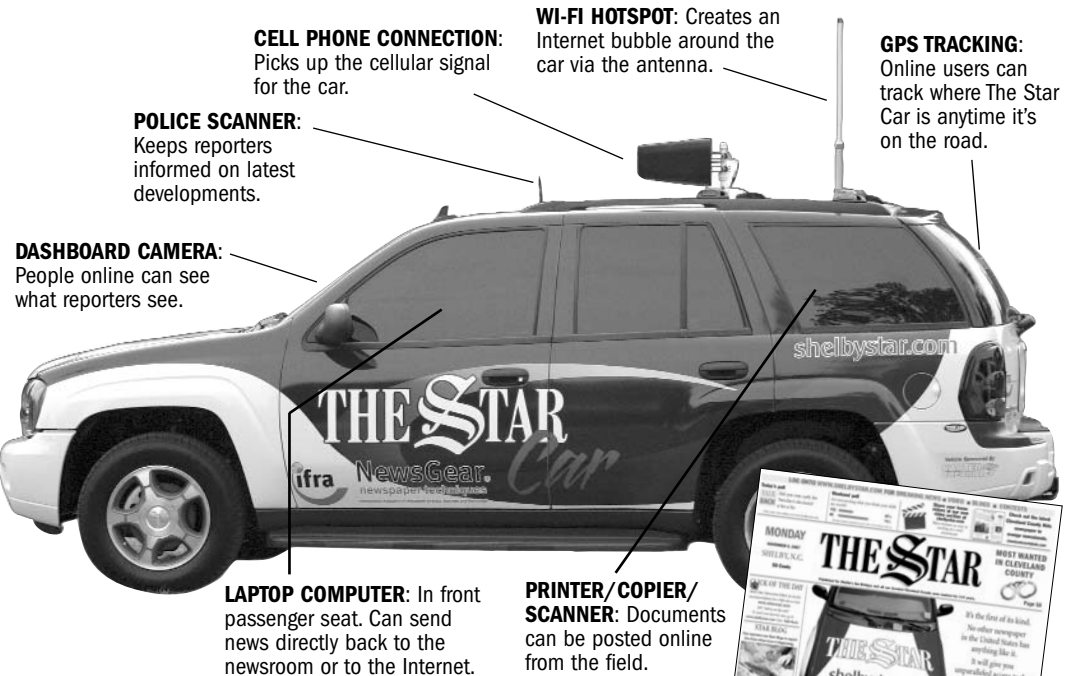
The Star Car is a mobile interactive newsroom, a rolling Wi-Fi hotspot. Reporters drive it to wherever something is happening, turn on the equipment, and they can report live online. Simply put, the car puts an array of multimedia tools at the disposal of the journalists using it.

### How?

The Star Car creates a "wireless hotspot," allowing reporters to connect to the Internet virtually anywhere.

### Project partners

The Star Car is a joint project of The Star, the Ifra Newsplex at the University of South Carolina, and Freedom Communications, The Star's parent company.



### A bonus feature

The Star Car also serves as a unique promotional vehicle for the newspaper. Within days of launching the project, requests came pouring in to have The Star Car visit various events.

*"The Star is going to be a great partner in demonstrating that with this vehicle and technology, newspapers can cover news on the Internet quickly and in different ways."*

Randy Covington, director, Ifra Newsplex, University of South Carolina



Story provided by Jon Jimison, The Star



### Honoring a living legend

UNC's School of Journalism has a new professorship honoring Tabor City's W. Horace Carter.

Page 5

### ALSO INSIDE

North Carolina newspapers expand their **election coverage** to the internet and share their stories with us. Page 6

NCPA's general counsel serves up some food for thought on **alcoholic beverages at holiday office parties**. Page 8



Tim Dearman

From the president

tdearman@statesville.com

# Good staff, committees behind quick meetings

**D**o you ever wonder what happens in your NCPA board meetings? Here is a brief report from last month's quarterly meeting held in Winston-Salem.

The board convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at about 2:30 p.m. The executive committee met for about three hours the previous afternoon.

The major issues included:

■ Financial reports from NCPS Secretary-Treasurer Scott Harrell, and a report from the NCPA. Your board takes its stewardship responsibility seriously.

■ Committee reports from the operations, membership, finance, legislative, online and professional development committees.

■ Staff reports from Controller Bobby Bracy, Member Services Director Holly Johnson, and Advertising & Marketing Director Lindsay Webster.

■ Executive Director's report from Beth Grace

■ President's report from me.

We also voted on policy changes or other actions needing board approval. Issues at this meeting included:

■ Approved a proposal to improve the performance of the association's investment portfolio, presented by our new investment firm DMJ Wealth Advisors of Greensboro.

■ Authorized the staff to negotiate an office lease. We normally sign five-year leases and begin renewal discussions about two years out. We anticipate staying in our current location at the Beta Center in Raleigh.

■ Approved a partnership with Central Carolina Community College to create some low-cost, online training for NCPA members.

■ Discussed nominations for North Carolinian of the Year.

During the last three years, the board meetings have become shorter to save time and money. Board members are busy. Like you, they have day jobs and family commitments.

We also try to keep expenses low. All board members pay their own way, but NCPA does have expenses for staff travel and lodging, meeting space and meals. Keeping meetings to one day saves money.

Efficient meetings result from good planning and hard work by the staff and committees. Director Beth Grace along with Bobby, Holly, and Lindsay, provide NCPA with strong and professional leadership.

Things are being done right and there are few problems requiring board attention. We would expect nothing less.

A good meeting takes hours of planning, information gathering and report writing. Your staff does this very well.

Efficient meetings mostly depend on strong committees. This is where the real work of the association is done.

Committees are where the issues are addressed, the questions answered and the recommendations made. The committees chart our course and those chairs are the real heroes of NCPA.

If you want to a better association and if you are interested in serving on a committee just let Beth know.

In summary, NPCA and NCPS are off to a good start on the fiscal year. After three months, we are on budget and on plan thanks to the hard work of the staff and committees.

*Tim Dearman is the president of NCPA/NCPS and is the publisher of Statesville Record & Landmark. You can send him an e-mail at tdearman@statesville.com.*

## Want to get involved?

Find out how to become a member of one of NCPA's committees by going to [www.ncpress.com](http://www.ncpress.com). Select NCPA and the Member Services tab.

### THE NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

Beth Grace .....Publisher  
Holly Johnson .....Editor  
John Pea .....Managing Editor

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**Want to contribute?** NCPA encourages members to submit items or stories of interest for publication. The easiest way is to e-mail to [john@ncpress.com](mailto:john@ncpress.com). Deadline for contributions is the 15th day of the month preceding the publication month.

The **basic subscription rate** of \$24 a year is included in members' dues.

For **address changes**, contact the NCPA office.



### North Carolina Press Association Mission Statement

■ To protect First Amendment freedoms; to keep public meetings and public records open; to keep the entire state government process accessible to the public.

■ To promote thorough communications among members and to encourage membership growth and activity.

■ To maintain high industry standards.

■ To represent the business interests of North Carolina newspapers.

■ To promote literacy throughout the state.



### North Carolina Press Services Mission Statement

■ To maintain an innovative, profitable sales and marketing program that promotes and enhances the total newspaper industry.

Lindsay Webster .....NCPA Marketing Director  
Leta Pope .....NCPA Network Advertising Director

[www.ncpress.com](http://www.ncpress.com)

## NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD

■ As promised, NCPA board members have begun making calls to fellow members. Armed with a spreadsheet, a list of talking points to share about the association and an e-mailable survey, board members received their assignments early in November. Please share a moment or two to let us know, via these calls, how the NCPA is doing and what more we can do for you!

■ Two NCPA board members announced that their careers are taking them out of the state and tendered their resignations. Tommy Wilson, the NCPA's secretary/treasurer, will be leaving Boone to become publisher of *The Daily Post-Athenian* in Athens, Tenn., and regional vice president for Jones Media.

NCPA President Tim Dearman appointed Jordan Whichard III, publisher of *The Daily Reflector* in Greenville, as new secretary/treasurer.

Melanie Sill, senior vice president and executive editor of *The News & Observer* in Raleigh, is heading west to become executive editor of *The Sacramento Bee*. A nominee to fill her unexpired term will be named soon.

■ Legislative roundtables will resume Dec. 10 with a meeting at *The Charlotte Observer* hosted by Publisher Ann Caulkins and Editor Rick Thams, who also is NCPA board vice president this year.

■ NCPA is working in partnership with Central Carolina Community College to produce three low-cost (about \$25 per student!) online classes for NCPA members.

Subjects for the first three sessions will focus on: Customer Service; Ad Layout and Design; and Web Site Maintenance and Design.

All classes will run for four hours – two hours with an online instructor and two hours at your own pace. They will present a back-to-basics approach to help members train their new staff and give a refresher course for existing staff.

Watch for updates soon!



Wilson



Sill

# Winter Institute welcomes SNPA Traveling Campus

You'll be getting more bang for your buck (so to speak) at the 2008 Winter Institute.

NCPA has teamed up with the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation's Traveling Campus program to bring you outstanding opportunities for valuable training.

Winter Institute is scheduled for Feb. 28-29 at the Embassy Suites at Cary.



▲ Check out the video promotion for the Winter Institute at [www.ncpress.com](http://www.ncpress.com). And look for more Institute details soon.

## Hey circulation managers, publishers: Don't drop us!

When you update your subscription mailing lists, please don't drop the NCPA from that list!

We use the two subscriptions you promise when signing up to be members each year to track ads that ran in your paper. We need those copies to send to the agency or company that places the ads as proof they ran. When we don't have tearsheets, it delays our work to make sure you

get paid for the great work you do in placing ads that come through NCPS.

For most accounts, we are still required to use the hard-copy tearsheets. In some cases, we can accept electronic tearsheets. If you have recently installed software to provide e-tears, please let us know!

So please remember NCPA and NCPS — and thanks for your support!

## In search of more dollars for members

Christa Townley, network member services director of NCPS, joined representatives from 25 other state press associations at the Classified Manager's Conference sponsored by the Newspaper Association Managers organization. The Florida Press Association was the host of the conference at Tampa, Fla.

The conference provided network classified managers the chance to meet with their peers in search of better ways to serve their member newspapers.

"The session Monetizing Your Classified Web Site provided a lot of useful information," Townley

said. "The panel discussed the importance of getting the ad networks online and visible to potential clients by search engine optimization."

She reported that it was particularly beneficial to hear new program ideas that other state representatives have implemented with their member newspapers that have been successful. Among the ideas discussed were network sales contests, online networks and special section campaigns that offer newspapers additional selling incentives.



John Bussian

# Is the statute an oasis or a government mirage?

**E**ver felt like you are crossing a public records desert? No doubt many of you feel that way every day, looking for access to records on state and local government personnel.

As things stand at the moment, North Carolina ranks at the bottom of the states when it comes to the public's right to know about the hiring, performance and firing of government personnel.

Until the General Assembly is ready to quench the public's and the media's thirst for the information by overhauling the state statutes restricting public access to personnel records, the public and press need to use the few tools available to prod officials to release personnel files.

Despite what government officials constantly say, there is a way for local government to release these records. That's right. In the middle of our vast personnel records desert is a path to water. Granted, it's a seldom-used path. But it does allow city and county managers to release a public employee's entire personnel file.

Although shunned by major public sector players, two provisions in state statutes give clear authority for local-level public officials to release otherwise secret records, in the name of promoting confidence in government.

You'd think that promoting confidence in government would be enough to unleash a tidal wave of personnel records disclosure. But the experience of the NCPA membership shows that it takes a shot from half court by a city or county manager willing to advance the public interest — along with a lot of encouragement from our membership.

In any case, government officials simply won't use their authority to

disclose.

Why not? The answer starts with the statutes' requirements. The triggering language, contained in the municipal and county personnel records statute, is straightforward. A city or county manager, in concurrence with his or her respective city council and county commission, must determine in writing that releasing a public employee's personnel file is necessary to protect the quality of government service or promote public confidence in government.

Once the finding is placed in an individual employee's personnel file, the entire contents of the file may be released. And the city or county releasing the file has no liability for doing so.

The problem is that nobody wants to be responsible for making the call. Never mind that city and county managers work for the taxpayers and voters. It's the age-old need of some high-level officials to serve employee constituencies within government. Who among managers wants to release information about police or sheriff's deputies over objections from the police chief or sheriff?

That's exactly what happened recently in Durham. In a charge by NCPA Legislative Committee member Bob Ashley of The Herald-Sun and his paper (and WRAL), Durham City Manager Patrick Baker was asked to exercise his authority un-

der the municipal personnel records statute, G. S. Section 160A-168, to release the entire personnel files of a half-dozen officers suspended without pay by the Durham Police Department.

These are officers currently under investigation for alleged job-related misconduct. Plus, they work in a department that has been heavily criticized — and sued to the tune of \$100 million — for its role in the Duke lacrosse case.

It's hard to fathom a government agency in greater need of a public confidence shot in the arm than the Durham Police Department. Yet, as of this writing, the city manager continues to balk at making the finding and seeking his city council's support.

Maybe some good will come of Durham's stonewalling. Now we'll find out whether the statutory provision that allows the public an avenue of access to personnel records is the oasis it was meant to be or whether it's a mirage.

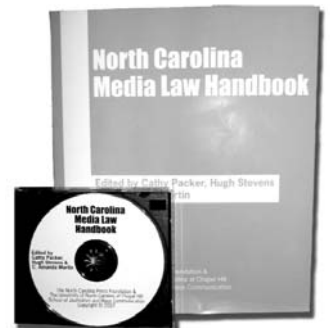
If the statute is a mirage, we can only hope for the day when North Carolinians will be able to see the hiring, firing and performance records of all state and local government employees, the way it works in countless other states.

Only then will there be meaningful government transparency. And the public confidence in government that goes with it.

## Santa suggests...

Order the latest edition of the North Carolina Media Law Handbook. It makes a great gift for your staff or your favorite public official.

Order online at:  
[www.ncpress.com/ncpa/medialawhandbook.html](http://www.ncpress.com/ncpa/medialawhandbook.html)





## Professorship established to honor North Carolina newspaper legend

The children of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **W. Horace Carter** have established a \$1 million professorship in his honor at University of North Carolina's School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Chapel Hill.

The W. Horace Carter Distinguished Professorship was created by Carter's son, Russell M. "Rusty" Carter, and daughters Velda Carter Hughes and Linda Carter Metzger.

Carter and his *Tabor City Tribune* won the Pulitzer for a courageous campaign against the Ku Klux Klan in the 1950s.

The campaign led to the convictions of more than 100 Klansmen.

*The Tribune* shared the 1953 prize for meritorious public service with *The News-Reporter*, Whiteville, for coverage waged in the face of violence and repeated threats.

## 'Taffy' offers students N.C. history lesson

If you found an increased interest in World War II among your readers since the airing of Ken Burns' "The War," then North Carolina Press Foundation has a great way to harness that interest for your newspaper and the NIE program.

NCPF has secured rights for a serialization of "Taffy of Torpedo Junction" by Nell Wise Wechter. The story focuses on the early years of the war when German submarines had the people of the Outer Banks on edge.

The story is in 16 chapters and is available in PDF, Quark or as raw files.

As an added bonus, NCPF has prepared study guides for teachers and students and a treasure of material related to the story and the era.

"Taffy" is available for North Carolina newspapers to print beginning in January.

The best part? There's no cost to run the serial. And promotional material is included. It's all included on a two-CD set that will be sent to your paper.

But (here's the catch), you have to sign up to use the story (see, it's not that difficult). All ages should enjoy this, so sign up today!



### To sign up for "Taffy"

Contact Sandra Cook  
sandynie@unc.edu  
or call (919) 843-5648

Want more info?

[www.ncnewspapersineducation.org](http://www.ncnewspapersineducation.org)

### Seminar scheduled to help members sell online ads

A one-day workshop titled The Online Street Fighter will be presented Feb. 7 for interested members of NCPA/NCPS.

The seminar is presented by Mike Blinder of The Blinder Group. It will be held in the conference center of the NCPA's office building.

Topics include how to track viewership, best practices (including pricing) and a review of what technologies are coming down the road.

The cost of the seminar will be announced soon. Look for registration materials in the mail and on the NCPA Web site in a few weeks.

### 'Stuff Your Stockings' contest continues through Dec. 17

A reminder for sales folks, you could earn more holiday money for yourself during this season.

Advertising reps can earn \$27 for each new Classified Network ad or renewal between Nov. 5 and Dec. 17.

It's a special *Stuff Your Stockings with New Business* contest sponsored by N.C. Press Services.

The ad rep with the most sold during the period will also receive a \$100 prize.

For full details on the contest and what ads qualify, go to the NCPS section of our Web site at [www.ncpress.com](http://www.ncpress.com)



# Members take

Newspapers are increasingly using the internet to cover their communities in new ways.

So we asked editors across North Carolina what they did differently this year covering municipal elections using their Web sites.

Here are the results of our survey:

*Answers have been edited*

## **Times-News, Hendersonville**

This year we had updates on the Web as soon as we got numbers on a countywide land transfer vote and on all our city elections.

I think we need to package it a bit better, make it more visibly separate from the rest of the content.

A big part of our plans for 2008 will involve campaign coverage on the Web.

*Bill Moss*

## **Mecklenburg Times, Charlotte**

We did not cover most elections in previous years because our publication has generally focused on courts and business coverage. However,

this year we began what we believe will be a long-term commitment to extensive coverage of elections in our coverage area.

In doing this, we relied heavily on on-line resources for basic information about candidates and e-mail to contact sources.

We found that also-ran candidates in major cities and many candidates in smaller rural municipalities do not use and respond to e-mail in the orderly way that we might expect from most higher-profile contacts.

Most likely, we will spin ahead election coverage with more emphasis on reaction and plans for the future and less on the statistical results. We will, however, likely leave the results archived on our site long-term, since we are aware that statistical junkies are a niche group that makes frequent use of our publication and Web site.

*Frank Taylor*

## **The News Herald, Morganton**

We brought candidates in for Q&A sessions. We ran a few in the paper but the entire list of questions and answers online.

We also had a video component.

We asked each candidate a

question and had them answer on video. For school board members, we asked, what

song best de-

scribes you. Some of them even sang for us.

*Cheryl E. Moose*

## **Watauga Democrat, Boone**

We featured video and slideshow photos as well as blogging and minute-by-minute election return updates. We also collected our stories and set up a special election banner to access the various profiles and stories.

Our readers know they can log on to our site to get the results and enhanced content faster and better.

We plan to repeat it and add enhanced content by next year. We may try Web streaming candidate debates or forums and will definitely feature more video and audio.

*Jason Reagan*



## **The Dispatch, Lexington**

We invited candidates to come to our office and record a 2-minute audio clip for our Web site. More than half of the candidates in the five municipalities we cover did so.

We compiled them onto a special page on our Web site along with photos of the candidates.

Although I would have liked 100 percent participation, we were pleased with the turnout for our first year.

Some candidates initially had trouble finding the logo to click to hear the audio on our home page, so different placement might have helped that.

*Chad Killebrew*

## **Mountain Times, Boone**

We used some banner advertising on site and did some "newscast" style video reporting. Banner ad holder actually won a tough campaign.

*Bill Greene*

## **The Gaston Gazette, Gastonia**

We revamped our existing Gaston-Politics.com site for the 2007 election season.

The sections included: candidate profiles and photos from all towns



# elections to the Web

in Gaston County, a political message board, information on the 2007 education bond, important election dates, an interactive map of the local polling places and the latest political stories from our print product. In many cases, we published our stories, bios, etc. to the Web site days before they were published in the newspaper.

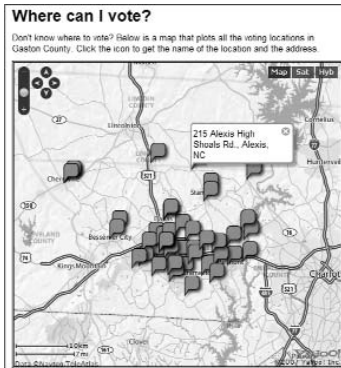
A few weeks before election day, The Gazette hosted its first live chat on GastonPolitics.com. This featured the two Gastonia mayor candidates answering questions from local residents that logged in to the live discussion.

On election day, GastonPolitics.com featured live results from the Gaston County Board of Elections. These numbers were updated throughout the night. There was also a rotating slideshow of photos that were taken from morning to night around Gaston County.

*Hunter Bretzius*

## Mooreville Tribune

Our in-house interactive media



content producer, Jessica Norman, took video at our town board and school board candidate forums and assembled superbly professional next-day presentations for our Web page that received a record number of hits for us.

As a twice-weekly newspaper, the videos allowed us to get coverage of the forums to the public far sooner than if we'd had to wait for publication day.

Additionally, having the full transcript of the videos meant we could condense our print coverage and repeatedly refer readers to the Web.

*Dale Gowing*

## The Star, Shelby

We sent a reporter from precinct to precinct to blog live all day using The Star Car. We allowed for interactivity where people could call, email or post comments for our reporter/blogger.

For election returns, we continued to blog live. In addition, we used the Star Car's dashcam camera to host a live, narrated online videocast of election returns as they came in.

The election turned into a big traffic driver for our Web site.

As to what to do differently, I would have had two people blogging during the time election results

were coming in. I would also better balance the number of people focused on the online vs. the number of people focused on the printed product.

*Jon Jimison*

## The Fayetteville Observer

We've been doing a five-minute video newscast each weekday at 3 p.m. for about six months now. On election night, we sent our team out to the site where the candidates gather and the votes are announced.

The results came in fairly early, giving us the opportunity to do a special election newscast that we popped up on our site at 11:30 p.m.

In addition to a live blog and regular news updates, we had a lot of different offerings for our Web readers.

*Brian Tolley*



## UNC-CH students get election training in various media

The UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication, in an effort to encourage cooperation across sequences and courses, brought together four classes during the fall 2007 semester to cover Orange County, Carrboro and Chapel Hill elections.

Participating in the project were students from Leroy Towns' political reporting class, Jock Lauterer's community journalism class, Ryan Thornburg's online newswriting and editing class, and Andy Bechtel's

copy editing class.

Leading up to the election Nov. 6, reporting students covered local issues and races through different media including print, audio and video.

For election night, student journalists stepped out of the classroom/newsroom to document the results and reactions to the local 2007 election.

Like professional journalists, students worked with real deadlines and filed their stories for editing

and posting to a special JOMC Web site.

The election 2007 project allowed students to gain knowledge and refine their skills in the traditional form of journalism, while also cultivating skills in 'new' media such as online news and blogging.

Their work can be seen at <http://www.jomc.unc.edu/elections/2007/>

*Leroy Towns*



Amanda Martin

# 'Tis the party season, do you serve wassail?

The lines of this column usually report or discuss First Amendment issues, but I've gotten permission to stray a bit into issues you might face in the ordinary business side of your newspaper.

I am writing this one week before Thanksgiving. You will read this (if you read it at all) sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the heart of holiday season, which is also the heart of party season.

If you are like me, you go to more parties between Dec. 1 and Jan. 2 than in all the other 11 months combined. And whether it's eggnog, wassail or champagne, when there is a Christmas party there often is alcohol.

So, what is your paper's potential liability for serving up spirits at the company Christmas party? The answer to that question may depend in part on when and where and how you entertain your employees.

Though our courts haven't squarely addressed this question, there are several reasons you may be more protected if your party is at a commercial establishment than in your newsroom.

North Carolina law makes it illegal for an ABC-licensed or permitted business to knowingly sell or give alcoholic beverages to any person who is intoxicated. So that professional pouring the drinks behind the bar probably has much better radar than you to detect who is at his or her limit.

Bartenders have to develop a sixth sense of when to cut someone off. Also, there is no reported case in North Carolina finding "secondary liability" for the host of a party held in a commercial setting (a bar or restaurant). It's the restaurant or bar that is on the hook.

While there are plenty of cases

addressing the liability of bars or convenience stores that sold alcohol to drunken people, it wasn't until 1992 that our Supreme Court held that a "social host" – someone hosting a party at home – could potentially be liable for injuries that occur after serving alcohol to someone already intoxicated.

The Court wrote that "social-host liability" is based on common law principles of negligence.

Therefore, a person may be liable if he "(1) served alcohol to a person (2) when he knew or should have known the person was intoxicated and (3) when he knew the person would be driving afterward."

In most cases, the critical element is the question of knowledge. Did the host know the drinker already was intoxicated? Did the host know how many drinks the person consumed (and therefore should have known the person was intoxicated)? If so, there can be liability to the host.

Not many of us have jobs in which going to parties and drinking is "within the scope of employment," but the Fourth Circuit decided a case in which summary judgment was denied to a "defendant-employer" that had a Christmas party for its 861 employees.

"[T]he party was held on the business premises ... began at 8 a.m. and continued during working hours." The Fourth Circuit found a genuine question of "whether the employee's attendance at the party and his consumption of alcohol could reasonably be considered to be within the scope of his employment." Therefore, the employer was potentially liable for the employee who got drunk and then was in a fa-

tal accident.

In addition to legalities, I know you also want to protect your employees and everyone else on North Carolina's roads. So what are the lessons to be learned? It's in large part a matter of common sense, but here is a list of steps you might consider to increase safety and reduce liability.

■ Have your party outside normal business hours.

■ If it's in your budget, have your party somewhere that you can let a professional monitor who's drinking what and how much.

■ If your party is in-house, have someone serving drinks rather than having a self-serve bar where no one even notices how much people are drinking. Instruct whoever is serving drinks to never serve anyone who shows any signs of intoxication.

■ You might want to set a fixed drink limit based on how long you expect the party to last.

■ Make arrangements ahead of time for transportation for anyone who has too much to drink and let people know about it. Either identify

some designated drivers or have a cab company on call to shuttle home any merry employee who has had one too many.

Holidays are the time for thanksgiving, fun and fellowship. With a few steps you can protect yourself against letting someone's carelessness rob the season of its good cheer, or worse.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! And cheers!

*Amanda Martin is the general counsel for NCPA/NCPS and partner in the law firm of Everett, Gaskins, Hancock & Stevens in Raleigh.*

**Questions?  
NCPA's legal  
hotline  
(919)  
833-3833**

# Make your area high school journalists aware of scholarship competition

Encourage high school journalists in your area to prepare portfolios for the N.C. High School Journalist of the Year competition. Winners in the state competition will receive the Rachel Rivers-Coffey Scholarship and will be eligible for the National High School Journalist of the Year competition.

The N.C. Press Foundation funds the Rachel Rivers-Coffey Scholarship through an endowed gift from Armfield Coffey.

The winner receives \$500. Two alternates receive \$200. Matching funds are awarded to the three winners' high school journalism programs.

High school seniors who have been involved with journalism for

at least two years, have at least a 3.0 unweighted GPA, and plan to study journalism and mass communication in college and pursue either as a career are eligible to apply.

Applicants must submit a portfolio, as well as an entry form, transcript, self-evaluation of one's "journalistic life" and letters of recommendation.

Portfolios must be submitted by Feb. 15 to the N.C. Scholastic Media Association Office in the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

For more information, contact NCSMA Director Monica Hill at [ncsma@unc.edu](mailto:ncsma@unc.edu) or visit the Journalism Education Association Web site at [www.jea.org](http://www.jea.org).

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## Newspaper notes from around North Carolina

### Three of the top 10 in N.C.

Count three North Carolina newspapers as being among the top 10 in the nation for feature sections. The American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors announced the best sections at its annual conference.

Making the list were:

- *The Charlotte Observer*
- *The News & Observer* of Raleigh

- *Star-News* of Wilmington

You can check out the complete list and see what the judges had to say about each paper by following the links at [www.ncpress.com/news.html](http://www.ncpress.com/news.html)

### Bridal section takes honors

*The News Reporter* of Whiteville picked up a national award for its 2006 Bridal Edition. News editor **Clara Cartrette** took a second place in the special section category of the National Federation of Press Women's contest.

### NNA honors two N.C. papers

Two North Carolina newspapers earned awards in this year's National Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Contest. The papers and

categories were:

- *Alamance News*: Community Service, Editorial, Editorial Page
- *Carteret County News-Times*: Feature Photo, Sports Photo, Sports Column

In addition, *Carteret County News-Times* received three awards in the NNA's Best of Newspaper in Education Contest for partnerships and best ideas.

### Reporter gets 'Star' treatment

**Matthew Moriarty**, a staff writer for *The Pilot* of Southern Pines, became the interviewee instead of the interviewer on the Star Jones Show on CourtTV.

Moriarty and a local minister were on the show to discuss a murder case involving a local 12-year-old girl.

### Law firm decides to settle

Last month we reported that the *Outer Banks Sentinel* filed a lawsuit against the law firm representing the town of Kitty Hawk. A judge had already ordered the town to pay \$75,000 in legal fees to help cover the paper's expenses in fighting a public records lawsuit.

The paper sought \$50,000 in addi-

tional legal costs from the Norfolk, Va.-based law firm.

Now we can report the firm ended up settling the claim with a \$20,000 payment to the *Sentinel* and a \$2,500 payment to the North Carolina Open Government Coalition.

### Pond dedicated to writer

A pond in Bur-Mil Park at Greensboro was dedicated to a former outdoors author and *News & Record* journalist, **Conrad "Buck" Paysour**.

Paysour died in 2001. A marker of brick and bronze will be at the pond, a popular fishing spot.

### Beyond the call of duty...

Sometimes we suffer much in the line of duty. Here's an example from the pages of *The Chatham News*:

"The decreasing level of Jordan Lake took an unexpected toll on a photographer last week.

"**Takaaki Iwabu**, a photographer of Raleigh's *News & Observer*, watched his car roll into Jordan Lake while trying to capture a shot of a boat immobile in shallow water."

Never fear, the paper reports the car was recovered and loaded on a tow truck.

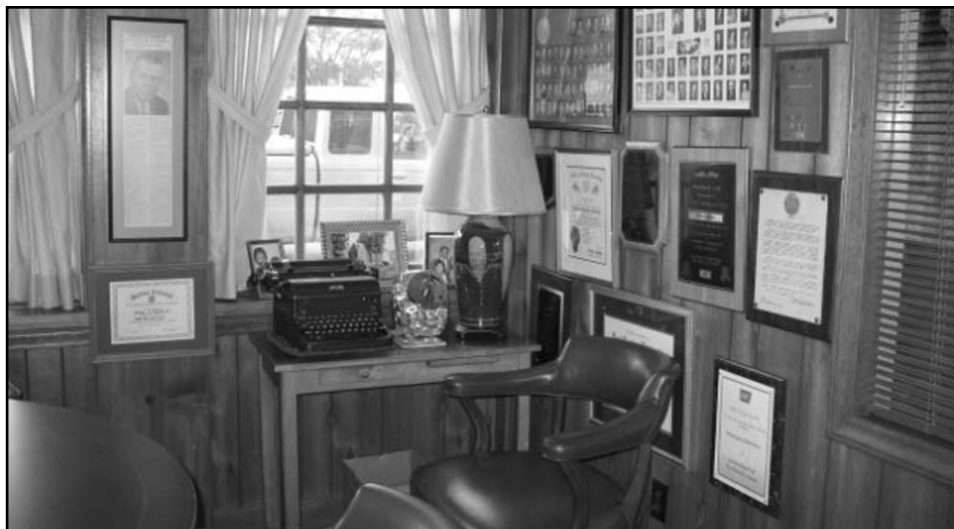
# Office a reminder of the past

## Framed statement of principles still hangs on the wall

The future of the newspaper industry is THE conversation everyone's having these days. But for some North Carolina newspapers, remembering and honoring the past also helps keep newspapers strong and grounded.

At several NC newspapers, the past is a tangible asset owners and managers now use to involve the community and to teach about the paper's history and heritage.

At the Washington Daily News, the office once occupied by a well-



known and respected figure in North Carolina newspapering recently was transformed into a conference room, used for meetings

and as a space for reporters to conduct interviews.

## News of North Carolina newspaper people



Cavanaugh



Drescher



Frahmann



Hardin



Jones



Maynor



Witten



Logan



Stringer

**Abby Cavanaugh** has been named associate editor of *The Advertiser News* in Richlands. Most recently, she was copy editor for *Lumina News* in Wrightsville Beach.

**John Drescher**, who has been the managing editor of *The News & Observer*, became that newspaper's executive editor and senior vice president on the departure of **Melaine Sill**.

**Nancy Frahmman** joined the advertising staff of the *Cherokee Scout*. Frahmman is also the owner of a boutique in Andrews.

**Barbara Hardin** has been named associate editor of *The Pender Chronicle* in Burgaw. She previ-

ously served as editor of *The Enterprise* in Yadkinville, lifestyles editor of *The Tribune* in Elkin and *The Yadkin Ripple* in Yadkinville, and copy editor for *Lumina News* in Wrightsville Beach.

**Ken Harty**, formerly the advertising director of the *Daily Herald* in Roanoke Rapids, became the publisher of *The Daily News* of Wahpeton, N.D. His father spent 30 years as ad manager at *The Daily News*.

**Claud Hodges** rejoined the staff of the *Washington Daily News* as senior reporter. He previously worked at the paper 1994-2001.

**Eric Jones** moved from being a

summer intern at *The Avery Journal-Times* to becoming a full-time member of the newspaper's staff.

Former North Carolina newspaper Publisher **Rex Maynor** was recently appointed vice president of sales and marketing for cnhi's Gulf Coast and Blue Grass Divisions. In his new role Maynor will be responsible for the marketing efforts of cnhi newspapers in Texas, Kentucky, and Mississippi.

**Scott Witten** is the new editor of *The Laurinburg Exchange*. Previously he was the managing editor of *The Robesonian*. Witten replaces **Ricky Allen**, who left for service in the Navy Reserves.

### Deaths

**Marianna W. Logan**, 59, manager of *The Pilot's* Moore County Telephone Directory at Southern Pines. Died Sept. 27.

**Michael Simmons**, 64, former editor and general manager of *Bladen Journal* in Elizabethtown who began his journalism career at *The News Reporter* in Whiteville. Died Sept. 23.

**Patsy Stringer**, 59, former advertising systems administrator for *The Charlotte Observer*. Died Oct. 31.

## Futrell office Continued from Page 10

"For two years, we kept the office my father worked in exactly the same as it was the day he died," said Ashley B. "Brownie" Futrell Jr., now publisher of the Pulitzer Prize-winning paper. "Then we thought that we should share this with people and we moved his desk out and a conference table in."

Much of the elder Futrell's office, otherwise, remains unchanged. The wood-paneled walls are covered with countless journalism and civic awards, family pictures, and collages from his days in the North Carolina Senate.

Among the framed items on the wall: a statement of principle designed to "guide a responsible press in a free society." The statement was adopted unanimously by the NCPA membership at the 30th annual winter Institute of 1955, held at Chapel Hill.

On an adjacent wall are at least 20 NCPA awards given over the years to the staff of the *Daily News*. The elder Futrell was a longtime mem-

**Want to see more?  
More pictures of  
Ashley Futrell Sr.'s  
office are at  
[www.ncpress.com](http://www.ncpress.com)**

ber and strong supporter of the association, and was president of the NCPA Board of Directors in 1960-61.

Like his father, Brownie Futrell served as president in 1993-94.

The built-in bookcase that was behind Futrell's desk is still filled with his books and papers. One of his cardigan sweaters still hangs from a coat rack in front of the bookcase.

His son has taken pains to keep his father's memory – and the lessons he taught – alive in that room. Even his favorite sweets – Peppermint Patties – are available in a glass candy jar, now refilled often by his son.

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**DIANNE CIOTTA**



has been successfully presenting captivating skills refinement seminars to advertising sales executives and managers for 18 years. Diane is also a *Kidsville News!* Publisher for central Jersey.

**CRAIG S. MCMULLIN** is the executive director of the Association of Free Community Papers, which represents nearly 3,000 community papers across North America. Since taking the helm in 1999, AFCP membership has more than tripled, classified revenues have grown from \$600,000 to nearly \$4 million and conference attendance has increased 800%.



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