

Arkansas Newspaper Connection

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PUBLISHER

Ashley County Publishing Company and Chicot County Newspapers, which publish *The Ashley News-Observer*, *The Ashley County Ledger*, *The Chicot Spectator*, *The Eudora Enterprise* and *Shopper's Guide* as well as several niche publications, are seeking a new publisher to take over for a long time publisher who is retiring.

This individual must be an innovator who is ready to take this multi-media operation to the next level and lead into the future. In addition to the printed products and related websites, Ashley and Chicot have access to state of the art digital marketing and advertising platforms.

Offerings include social media, Google, recruitment, streaming TV and audio commercials, content creation, geofencing and much more. You will have access to top notch training and a full support team from our home office.

Ashley County Publishing, located in Crossett, Arkansas also has a web press with a robust commercial printing operation. The commercial print side of the business is very profitable, but does need attention on the personnel side.

Whether you prefer small town living or the excitement of a larger community, this southeast Arkansas area can provide. The county wide-population of around 20,000 offers a chance to know your neighbors, but be within only an hour's drive away to larger community amenities.

The new publisher will earn a competitive salary with a generous bonus tied directly to operating profit and other benefits such as family health insurance, vehicle allowance, vacation, life insurance, etc.

The owners wish to fill this important position quickly.

Please apply to John Lancaster, Vice President, Lancaster Management, Inc, at john@lminews.com with your resume, references, salary requirements and your goals for the future.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Mena Star is searching for a full time Associate Editor. If you would love to live in a small mountain community and work for a weekly paper which has been in print since 1896 we would like to speak with you!

The Associate Editor position would entail covering local events such as city and county meetings, sporting events, taking pictures, proofing our publications, working with our composing team, editing and writing. This position would also be the lead on our other weekly publication, the *Ouachita Trading Post*. This position will require some nights and weekend work to be performed.

We operate our own press and publish three of our own publications. We also do various print jobs that would require your expertise.

Please send your resume to Jamie Hammack at Publisher@MenaStar.com. Arklaoma Print & Digital is an equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

PRESS OPERATOR

Ashley County Publishing Co., Inc. in Crossett, Arkansas has a position available for a web press operator. This is a daytime position with a Tuesday through Friday print schedule each week. Press is a GOSS / DGM with a four high and five floor units as well as two Jardis splicers.

Knowledge of Kansa 480 inserting machine is a plus. Printing and general maintenance are a part of the job as well as some mailroom work. Vacation, life insurance, and short-term disability insurance are provided. Group health insurance is offered.

To apply, send a resume to bwhite@ashleynewsobserver.com.

DIRECTOR OF CONTENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Seeking a curious and motivated person to be part of the team working to help shape the future of local news media. The experienced, collaborative, service-oriented leader chosen will share responsibility for the digital content and audience engagement strategy we develop and deploy across the WEHCO newspapers with the editors of each of our titles. The person in this role will also serve as a sounding board, advocate and liaison to the newsroom's digital editors and champions.

This person will report to the Vice President of Content and Newsroom Strategy. They will also work closely with the corporate digital consumer revenue team and newsroom leaders.

REQUIRED: A bachelor's degree in discipline related to journalism or communication, such as design, five+ years of journalism or comparable professional experience. A background in related fields or positions will be considered, provided they demonstrate strong writing, editing or communication abilities. A candidate should also have experience in training newsroom staff and leaders in industry best practices. Experience developing AI products or applying AI-assisted tools for reporting, editing, or newsroom workflows is a plus.

Benefits include a hybrid work model, 401K & profit sharing, paid vacation and sick leave, paid holiday and floating holiday, paid personal day, paid parental leave, health, dental, and vision insurance, life, disability, and accident insurance, critical illness and hospital indemnity coverage, employee assistance program and behavior program.

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by law. Applicants must pass a drug screening, undergo motor vehicle record checks, and complete a background check.

Submit Resume: Allison Shirk, ashirk@wehco.com.

Ads run free for members and students for six weeks.

Deadline is Tuesday 10 a.m.

Email to lance@arkansaspress.org.

Arkansas Newspaper Connection

EDITOR

Join States Newsroom as Editor of *Arkansas Advocate*, an award-winning site for nonpartisan reporting on state government, policy and politics.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: Develop and distribute original journalism to drive area news

Coverage, hire and supervise journalists to provide daily news coverage and enterprise reporting on major state policy and political stories, edit and sometimes write major state policy and political stories, produce a daily morning newsletter with news readers need to know, work with States Newsroom's audience staff to achieve consistent engagement across newsletters and emerging social platforms, solicit editorial content from local contributors for an Arkansas-focused opinion section, participate in weekly calls and periodic visits with National Editor(s), as well as an annual summit of States Newsroom's editors, assure regular social media posts promoting local and national articles, manage donor relations and organize fundraising efforts with assistance from States Newsroom's headquarters.

The Editor will have funding for staffing, freelancers, travel and overhead expenses. Technical, marketing and editorial support are provided by States Newsroom's headquarters office.

QUALIFICATIONS & COMPENSATION: The ideal candidate will have at least 10 years of professional reporting and/or editing experience, a desire to lead and to train newer journalists, an entrepreneurial spirit, and a deep knowledge of Arkansas's political history and media landscape. This position will be based in Little Rock.

The minimum salary for a state editor is \$95,000 and rises with experience. Our generous benefits package includes: Premium-free platinum health care for employees (and 75% of medical premiums covered for qualified dependents), 4 weeks of vacation per year, 2 weeks of personal leave per year, 20 hours of paid volunteer time per year, 11 paid holidays per year, \$75 monthly cell phone reimbursement, \$200 cell phone replacement benefit every two years, \$75 monthly fitness benefit, 401K with up to 3% match, 12 weeks of parental leave, full-service EAP

A new laptop and any necessary equipment will be provided by States Newsroom.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume with at least three professional references, and links to at least five writing/editing samples that demonstrate your vision for a hard-hitting newsroom to jobs@statesnewsroom.com. Applications will be reviewed as they arrive.

AUDIENCE DIRECTOR

The *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* is seeking a visionary and collaborative Audience Director to lead the development and execution of our statewide newsroom into a more digitally sophisticated and audience-first operation.

Qualifications Required: Minimum 5 years of newsroom experience, with at least two years in a leadership role focused on digital journalism, audience development or content strategy, proven success in growing digital audiences, leading editorial teams and translating data insights into actionable strategies, deep understanding of digital content strategies, platforms and analytics, strong communication, organizational and leadership skills, a collaborative spirit, able to build relationships and work effectively across teams and departments, willingness to learn and experiment, and a desire to help others in the newsroom do the same!

Preferred: Experience leading digital transformation and change management in established news organizations, proficiency with tools like analytics tools like Google Analytics and social scheduling tools, experience managing teams or supervising direct reports and experience developing AI products or applying AI-assisted tools for reporting, editing, or newsroom workflows is a plus.

Benefits include a hybrid work model, 401K & profit sharing, paid vacation and sick leave, paid holiday and floating holiday, paid personal day, paid parental leave, health, dental, and vision insurance, life, disability, and accident insurance, critical illness and hospital indemnity coverage, employee assistance program and behavior program.

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by law.

Applicants must pass a drug screening, undergo motor vehicle record checks, and complete a background check.

Submit Resume: Allison Shirk, ashirk@wehco.com.

PRESS OPERATOR

The *Courier* in Russellville is looking for a full time press operator. Full time position with a complete benefit package including paid vacation, medical insurance and 401K.

Job Summary: The primary responsibility of the press operator is to set up, operate and maintain a GOSS 8 unit press and folder in a safe and efficient manner with an eye toward print quality and waste control. Fill in any production position when needed, operate a forklift for moving and unloading rolls of newsprint. A physically demanding job that requires lifting, climbing and standing for long durations.

Must have mechanical experience, preferably in an industrial setting. Must be 18 years of age or older.

Apply at *The Courier*, 201 E. 2nd St. Russellville, AR 72801 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. No phone calls please.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

316 square feet

Parking included

Close to the Arkansas State Capitol

Use of conference room and kitchen

Contact: ashley@arkansaspress.org

Arkansas Newspaper Connection

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jonesboro Media Group is looking for an experienced, driven, digital-savvy journalism leader for our local news website, *JonesboroRightNow*. The editor-in-chief is responsible for the publication of all site content; supervises the content team; and collaborates with advertising and broadcast teams to ensure a robust news site that meets the community's needs.

Typical duties will include: Using sound news judgment to make editorial decisions on site content, representing the site to the community in public and on social media, holding weekly staff meetings to review metrics and discuss content plans, using digital tools to analyze site metrics to inform decision making and working with JMG leaders to facilitate revenue opportunities and growth.

The candidate will also be expected to perform the following: Reporting, writing, and posting news articles on a variety of topics, taking photos and videos as needed, crafting and posting social media content (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.), using audience metrics to improve story ideas and storytelling strategies, engaging with the community to develop sourcing, both in person and on social media, representing the company to the public to provide excellent customer service.

The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree in journalism, communications, or a related field, five or more years of journalism experience, top-notch writing and editing ability, leadership skills for effective work in a collaborative, supportive environment, experience with digital content management systems, active engagement in social media platforms and the ability to learn and adapt quickly to emerging technologies.

This full-time position includes a salary. It also includes fantastic benefits and the opportunity to enjoy a career in digital journalism. This is an in-person position, and reliable transportation is required. Jonesboro Media Group is an equal-opportunity employer. Join us and make a difference.

Send your resume to tstafford@jmediagrp.com.

INVESTIGATIVE EDITOR

The *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* is seeking a smart, skilled, tireless journalist to be the investigative editor for the state's leading news source.

We are looking for journalists with a record of investigative journalism that serves the public by holding powerful people accountable, bringing insight for quick-turn watchdog stories as well as larger, long-term projects, working with reporters across the newsroom to find ideas and help them capitalize on investigative opportunities, managing multiple complex projects simultaneously with strong organizational skills, clear prioritization and consistent followthrough from concept to publication, skilled editing, showing the ability to help reporters deliver cogently written, air-tight stories, use of public records to find stories, unearth facts and fuel reporting, an eye for the big picture to see where the heart of any given story lies, a deft digital hand, finding the best use of the platform, able to apply all the available tools to serve readers, data reporting skills that enable news organizations to compellingly present and reporters to swiftly sift through reams of material, balancing large-scope project management with a steady production of shorter-term watchdog stories, navigating the legalities both in producing unassailable copy that safeguards the institution and in accessing the information needed to deliver the story, seamlessly working with digital teams to ensure the best possible reader experience.

QUALIFICATIONS: At least five years of high-level experience as an investigative journalist, a commitment to public service, a belief in objective reporting that ensures stories are free from actual bias, exceptional writing and editing skills, expertise in leading journalists of all talent levels and all ranges of experience, knowledge of FOIA law, fluency in both media and public records law, proficiency in coaching and managing, the ability to understand and use data and be steeped in digital best practices.

Submit a cover letter, resume and three pdf samples of your best investigative work to:

Executive Editor Lee Wolverton at lwolverton@adgnewsroom.com.



ARE YOU HIRING?

The **Arkansas Newspaper Connection** is a weekly newsletter published by APA connecting freelance and independent writers, editors, photographers and designers with Arkansas newspapers in need. Lists available job openings and other opportunities at Arkansas newspapers and associate member organizations. Send your listings to lance@arkansaspress.org.