

# Newspaper Acquisitions

PUBLISHED FOR THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY BY DIRKS, VAN ESSEN & APRIL

Volume 25, Issue 3

© Dirks, Van Essen & April

2021 Year-End Report

## What's Inside

*Brisk Deal Activity Continues:  
Recap of recent transactions*  
pages 1-2, 4-5

*Year in Review:  
A look at 2021 deal activity*  
pages 1, 5

*A Year Later: Checking in with  
the Taylor family in Washington*  
page 3

*Q&A: A discussion with Tim  
Schmidt, one of the new local  
owners growing their holdings*  
pages 6-7

---

### Owen Van Essen

owen@dirksvanessen.com  
Office: 505-820-2700  
Mobile: 505-660-6648

### Sara April

sara@dirksvanessen.com  
Office: 505-820-2700  
Mobile: 505-603-4699

---

**DV&A**

WWW.DIRKSVANESSEN.COM

## Ogden Acquires Swift Communications; CherryRoad Media Continues to Buy

### Number of local owners also continues to grow

Deal activity remained brisk at the end of 2021, with more than 50 publications changing hands since October.

Buyers included several new local owners, including publishers taking the reins at papers in Kentucky and Texas.

### Ogden completes large expansion

In one of the largest deals of the quarter, Ogden Newspapers purchased Swift Communi-

cations. Swift Communications publishes six daily newspapers and numerous weekly newspapers, magazines and other media in a dozen markets in Colorado, Utah, and California, along with a number of national niche and agricultural magazine products.

Its markets include several mountain resort towns, including Aspen, Vail, Steamboat Springs, and Summit County, Colorado; as well as Park City, Utah and Lake Tahoe, California.

Swift also operates two press facilities in Carson City, Nevada and Gypsum, Colorado, both of which were included in the sale.

Ogden Newspapers is a fifth generation family-owned and operated newspaper company, founded in 1890 by H.C. Ogden. With the acquisition, Ogden will publish 54 daily newspapers and a number of weekly newspapers and

*Continued, page 2*

## Deal Activity Year in Review

### Small deals abound as numerous local owners buy; CherryRoad makes a splash

In 2021, 42 daily or thrice-weekly newspapers changed hands in 21 transactions. Deal volume totaled \$678 million. This compares to 81 daily or thrice-weekly newspapers changing hands in 19 transactions in 2020. Deal volume totaled \$460 million.

We consider a newspaper to be a daily if it publishes at least four days a week in print or as a digital replica.

These are the standard statistics we have included in our year-end issue for 25 years. However, while we prepared this issue and studied the 2021 deal data, something stood out.

For those of us that track newspaper deal activity, the significance of the **daily** newspaper transaction is shifting. Print frequency and delivery methods are changing rapidly, and the strong differentiations between daily and nondaily newspapers are blurring. Whether they publish daily, weekly, or something in between, all newspapers are integral to their communities. And buyers of newspapers are viewing them through more similar valuation lenses than ever before.

While there were 21 transactions that involved 42 daily newspapers in 2021, dozens more deals were completed that involved hundreds of nondaily newspapers. The newspaper deal market is alive and well.

*Continued, page 5*

## Ogden Acquires Swift Communications

Continued from page 1

magazines in 18 states. Ogden will keep operating the existing Swift publications under the name Swift Communications.

### CherryRoad adds a dozen

Newcomer CherryRoad Media continued its rapid growth, acquiring seven titles in Minnesota and five in Colorado.

This follows several other acquisitions in 2021, including the addition of 20 newspapers spread across Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri in October, four titles in Arkansas, one in Alabama, and a startup in International Falls, Minnesota.

CherryRoad's first acquisition, the weekly Cook County (MN) News-Herald, was completed just over a year ago.



The seven weekly Minnesota newspapers acquired included the Granite Falls Advocate-Tribune, Montevideo American News, Redwood Falls Gazette, Crookston Times, Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch, St. James Plaindealer, and Cottonwood Tri-County News. All had been owned by Gannett Co., Inc.

The five Colorado newspapers were added in two transactions. CherryRoad acquired the daily Trinidad (CO) Chronicle-News from local owners, and the nearby daily La Junta (CO) Tribune-Democrat and weekly Fowler Tribune, Bent County Democrat, and Ag Journal from Gannett.

CherryRoad Media is a wholly-owned subsidiary of CherryRoad Technologies, a Parsippany, New Jersey-based technology company that provides complex technical solutions and system integration services to large enterprise customers, particularly state and local government entities.

### Chionsini family sells to publisher

Granite Publications, a collection of ten nondaily newspapers and a printing operation in south Texas, was sold to Daniel Philhower, the company's publisher for the past five years.

Granite Publications was owned by Macy Chionsini, the widow of the late Jim Chionsini. Jim Chionsini began his career in newspaper ownership in 1978, acquiring numerous Texas newspapers throughout the years. Macy said it was Jim's hope that one day the company would be sold to Daniel Philhower.

"It's an honor to carry on the task of local journalism in these communities," said Daniel Philhower. "Newspapers are key to the health and vitality of a local community, and I take the



responsibility of carrying on what Jim has established in these communities very seriously. Community newspapers are still going strong, and we are honored to be part of the history in each of our communities."

### Houston alt sold

Voice Media Group (VMG) sold HoustonPress.com to an undisclosed buyer with plans to continue operating the online newspaper for years to come.

Houston Press, founded in 1989 as a weekly print publication, has been digital only since 2017.

VMG, through its digital arm V Digital Services (VDS), will continue to service and support its digital agency customers in Houston. VDS operates in more than 300 American cities, offering cutting-edge services in local and organic SEO, paid media, social media management, website development and both programmatic and pay-per-click advertising.

Following the sale of the Press, VMG will continue to operate the iconic local publications Denver Westword, Phoenix New Times, Miami New Times, the Dallas Observer and New Times Broward-Palm Beach.

The company previously sold the Village Voice in New York City, LA Weekly, OC Weekly, Minneapolis City Pages, and the Riverfront Times in St. Louis.

### Kentucky publisher takes ownership

Ohio-based Delphos Herald, Inc. sold the weekly Falmouth (KY) Outlook to its publisher, Neil Belcher, and his wife, Marilyn. Neil had been the publisher of the Falmouth Outlook since 2014. Delphos had owned the paper since 1985.

When Delphos Herald, Inc., owned by the Cohen family, decided to explore a sale of this newspaper they knew they wanted to find a local owner.

"Community journalism is at the heart of our organization and Neil and his staff have dedicated themselves to telling the stories of Pendleton County in compelling ways that win loyal subscribers and win awards at the state level year after year," said Delphos Herald, Inc. Acting President Roberta Cohen.

Neil and Marilyn, active members in the Pendleton County community, jumped on the opportunity to make the paper their own.

"Community journalism is so important to a small community such as ours," said Neil Belcher. "Hopefully, our independent local ownership will allow us to be nimble enough to adapt to whatever challenges we encounter. With 40 years of newspaper experience to draw from, I feel my entire career has prepared me for this moment."



Continued, page 4

# A Year Later

During the past two years, many newspapers have been acquired by local owners. This new feature in our newsletter will check in with these owners a year later to learn about their transition and the community's response to their ownership.



From left: Melynn Jorgensen, Franklin Taylor, Coralee Taylor, Chad Taylor and Amber Taylor

In January 2021, the Taylor family acquired three newspapers in Washington state: the Centralia Chronicle, the Nisqually Valley News in Yelm and The Reflector in Battle Ground. The newspapers had been owned by Lafromboise Communications, which had published the Centralia newspaper for more than five decades before it was sold.

The Taylors already owned and operated The Silver Agency, a full service marketing company, in neighboring Chehalis.

We took some time to sit down with Chad Taylor to learn about their first year in the newspaper industry and their experience transitioning these papers to new local ownership.

## **It's been about a year since you got into the newspaper business. Do you have any second thoughts about that decision?**

No, not at all. It's been an enriching experience for our whole family. The learning curve has been steep, but the people in this industry are outstanding to work with and go out of their way to offer help and support in any way that they can.

## **What has been the biggest surprise?**

How helpful other newspaper owners are. We have developed some fantastic relationships with other newspapers owners. They've offered so many great ideas.

## **You were a city councilor at the time you bought the paper. Are you still in the position?**

No, I resigned the month after we acquired the company. We felt it would create a conflict to cover a municipality by our staff as I was helping make decisions for it.

## **What can you share regarding the financial improvements or challenges you have faced in the first year?**

Our industry has gone through several years of challenges. Those challenges have forced owners to make certain decisions about where they invest their money within the company. Most of those decisions have been to forgo maintenance and equipment purchases. Because of that, this first year has focused on structurally making sure the

processes and procedures are dialed in, including ensuring we have the right personnel in the correct positions. We've also gone through each department looking for efficiencies and investing in new technology and equipment where it made the most significant impact. I'll say this regarding financial improvement, we've invested over \$250K in equipment, and we'll be well within the black our first year.

## **A year ago, you indicated your investment in the newspaper business would be a family affair. How many family members are working in the business?**

Yes, the companies and businesses we own are a family affair. At the newspapers specifically, along with my wife and I working there daily, we also have our son Franklin who is a vice president in our corporation who has specific oversight responsibilities, our daughter Amber who is in our AP department as well as our daughter-in-law Melynn who is in the Social Media area.

## **What do you hear from the community regarding the newspaper being locally owned?**

We think the community appreciates having a locally owned newspaper that they can count on for unbiased reporting with a heavy focus on local community events and news. The barometer we use regarding what the community feels is subscriptions, and we can happily report that they are on the rise.

## Ogden Acquires Swift Communications

*Continued from page 2*

### Street Media buys in Florida

Street Media LLC, the parent company of the Village Voice, LA Weekly, Irvine Weekly and Bay Area Marina Times, acquired The Laker/Lutz News in Florida.

The newspaper was recognized in July by the Florida Press Association as its 2021 Top Weekly Newspaper in its largest circulation division.

Brian Calle, Street Media's publisher and chief executive officer, said he was attracted to the newspaper and its website because of its quality community journalism and its tremendous potential to expand services.

### Three titles sold to Mullen brothers

Brothers Jesse and Lloyd Mullen acquired The Grant Tribune-Sentinel, The Imperial Republican, and The Holyoke Enterprise from Johnson Publications.

The group is located in northeast Colorado and southwest Nebraska and the newspapers publish weekly. Office buildings for the three publications were also included in the purchase.

Lloyd, Jesse, and their brother Louie (who separately owns a group of newspapers) grew up in the newspaper business.

"Growing up in a newspaper family in eastern Wyoming gave us a great love for small town journalism," Jesse said in an article in the Grant Tribune-Sentinel. "Lloyd and I are excited to protect and grow these newspapers for decades to come."

Jesse and his wife, Sasha, own and operate four newspapers in Montana and Idaho, as well as the Browsing Bison bookstore group in southwest Montana.

### Iowa company acquires five

New Century Press (NCP) acquired Star Publishing, which publishes five weekly newspapers and a shopper in southwestern South Dakota, from Allyson Hill.

Hill, who had owned the group for 17 years, is staying on as the managing editor for the five weeklies and the lead salesperson for the shopper.

NCP owns and operates two newspapers and a monthly women's magazine in Minnesota, three newspapers and a shopper in Iowa, and two newspapers in North Dakota. The company also partners in three common supplements in Minnesota and Iowa.

### Alden paper gets local owner

Public broadcasting company VPM Media acquired Style Weekly, an alternative weekly newspaper in Richmond, Virginia, from Alden Global Capital in November. The hedge fund had shut down the print and online publication in September.

VPM owns public television stations VPM PBS and VPM Plus in Richmond, a television station in Charlottesville, and a station in Harrisonburg. It also operates NPR radio station VPM News (88.9 FM) and VPM Music (107.3 FM, 93.1 FM and 88.9-HD2) in Richmond, as well as radio stations in the Northern Neck and Southside Virginia.

"This acquisition not only represents a strategic opportunity for VPM, but it is also a chance for nonprofit media to innovate and experiment with new business models that may define the future of local journalism," said Jayme Swain, president and CEO of VPM and the Virginia Foundation for Public Media.

### Texas weekly changes hands

The Hays (TX) Free Press was acquired by Something More Newspapers, owned and operated by Tania French and her two daughters Ashley Kontnier and Schelly Bartels, who have a strong newspaper background and established ties to Hays County.

French acquired the Port Lavaca (TX) Wave earlier this year, having worked there for 18 years, 11 of them as a publisher. She launched Something More Media in 2018 with Kontnier and Bartels.

*Continued, page 5*

## Radio Owners Head to the Exit

Between 2019 and 2021, 785 companies exited the radio business according to data from PrecisionTrak. Most radio sales were single stations in small to medium sized markets sold to regional consolidators.

According to data from SNL Kagan, there are approximately 5,800 radio stations in the country with 1,800 different owners. By comparison, there are approximately 11,000 different newspapers in the U.S. with approximately 5,000 different owners. While the total number of owners of newspapers has not declined dramatically in recent years, the number of companies owning radio stations has dropped by about one third.

The radio transactions during the past two years were much smaller than those five and ten years ago, similar to the trend with newspaper transactions.

## Ogden Acquires Swift Communications

*Continued from page 4*

Both Kontnier and Bartels grew up in the newspaper business and have backgrounds in various aspects of newspaper operations; Bartels also operated a printing press for a few years.

Kontnier has been a Hays County resident for 10 years, living above the Hays Free Press while attending Texas State University.

### Osteens add one

Jack and Kyle Osteen acquired the Lexington County (SC) Chronicle from Jerry and MacLeod Bellune.

Lexington County sits one hour west of Sumter, where members of the Osteen family have owned the daily Sumter (SC) Item since its founding in 1894.

### 154-year-old newspaper in Alabama sold

The Southern Star in Ozark, Alabama, believed to be the state's oldest family-owned newspaper, was sold to Maine-based newspaper operator Pierre Little.

The Southern Star had been in the Adams family since its founding in 1867.

Pierre Little's other titles include the Machias Valley News Observer and The Calais Advertiser, which operate in the nation's easternmost county – Washington County, Maine.

### Additional news

Two weekly Gannett-owned Florida papers – The Santa Rosa Press Gazette in Milton and the Crestview News Bulletin in Crestview – were acquired by Navarre Press Publisher Sandi Kemp and her business partner, Todd Neves.

The Enterprise Journal in St. Ansgar, Iowa purchased the Monitor Recorder in neighboring Riceville and will merge the two newspapers into one county-wide weekly newspaper.

Co-founders Dennis Forney and Trish Vernon sold the Cape Gazette, a newspaper covering Delaware's Cape Region, to co-publisher Chris Rausch. Rausch, a Delaware native, has been with the company since February 2003.

The Petersburg (AK) Pilot was sold by Ron and Anne Loesch to Orin Pierson. Pierson first worked at the Pilot in 2006 in page layout and pre-press, and returned in 2021 as the general manager. ■

## Year in Review

*Continued from page 1*

### Who was buying and selling?

The sellers ranged from large companies such as Gannett Co., Inc., which worked to strategically rationalize its portfolio, to others such as Landmark Communications, Quincy Media, and Swift Communications, which all exited the newspaper business.

Families and independents sold operations as well, including Randy Miller's Thirteenth Street Media in Tucson, Arizona and the Hunter family in Madison, South Dakota.

As was also the case in both 2019 and 2020, the buyer pool was extremely diverse in 2021. There were 16 different buyers in the 21 daily newspaper transactions, and the buyers of the nondailies were even more varied.

Larger newspaper groups, such as Paxton Media Group and Phillips Media Group, continued to buy, driven primarily by strategic interests. But a new buyer group that gained strength in 2020 continued to grow – local independent/small group owners.

Publishers and editors in numerous markets became owners this year, including Neil Belcher in Falmouth, Kentucky; Jennifer Allen in Hot Springs, Arkansas; Jonathan Vickery in Barnwell, South Carolina; and Justin Smith in Columbus County, North Carolina.

Many local owners of small groups also acquired newspapers, such as Vernon Publishing in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri; 209 Multimedia Corporation in California; Sexton Media Group in Neosho, Missouri; and Larry Hiatt in Pittsburg, Kansas.

We also saw newspapers acquired by civic-minded residents without newspaper backgrounds. Paul Belogour of Brattleboro, Vermont acquired the Brattleboro (VT) Reformer, the Bennington (VT) Banner, the weekly Manchester (VT) Journal, and UpCountry Magazine from New England Newspapers Inc., which acquired them from Digital First Media in 2016, along with the Berkshire Eagle in western Massachusetts.

And let's not forget CherryRoad Media, which burst onto the acquisition scene in 2021, going from one title in Minnesota in January 2021 to 40 titles across seven states as of January 2022.

### Largest deal of the year

The largest newspaper deal of 2021 was Alden Global Capital's acquisition of Tribune Publishing, which accounted for \$630 million in deal volume.

However, stepping away from just newspapers and looking at the broader media landscape, the Tribune deal was only the 15th largest media deal of the year, dwarfed by others such as Discovery and WarnerMedia's \$43 billion merger and Amazon's \$8.45 billion acquisition of MGM. ■

# Growing Local in Missouri



Tim Schmidt  
Westplex Media Group

Tim Schmidt has nearly two decades of experience in the newspaper industry. After working for larger newspaper companies for years, he struck out on his own in 2018 when he founded Westplex Media Group and acquired the Montgomery Standard, a weekly newspaper in Montgomery City, Missouri. Schmidt added a second weekly newspaper in October 2019 when he acquired the Warren County Record in Warrenton, Missouri.

In 2020 and 2021 he added two more Missouri papers to his stable: the Mexico Ledger and the Moberly Monitor-Index, both of which had been owned by Gannett. We took some time to sit down with Tim to learn more about these acquisitions and his experiences transitioning them to his ownership.

## During the last two years you acquired two small dailies in two separate deals from a large group owner. Are you pleased with those acquisitions?

Yes, I have been pleased with the results and I am extremely excited for the future at both properties. In both cases, the publications had great success many years ago but were no longer invested in the communities they serve. So much of the editorial content was statewide and national news, and there are so many places where you can find that information rather than a twice-weekly publication. I feel our focus and resources must be spent on local news and sports – content that you can't find anywhere else.

## What has the community response been like?

Very positive. Readers know that we care about the publications we print, and we are invested. In Mexico, we more than doubled our print readership in the first year. I feel the template has been established and similar results can be replicated in Moberly as well.

## What changes did you make after acquiring the newspapers in Mexico and Moberly, Missouri?

Number one, we started writing local stories about local people as we expanded our staff at both locations. As part of that, we reached out to our readers to ask for their feedback for what they wanted to see, as well as to get their buy-in. We also reduced our subscription and

advertising rates to align with our frequency.

We understand our communities' wants and needs because we're there and have feet on the ground. I

want each of my papers to have their own identities. Many times with a chain, each newspaper is a cookie-cutter and they all look the same. Also, if we want to make any changes, we don't have to go through layers for approval. From my previous experiences, I spent so many hours on monthly reports and various promotions that did not fit our market that it took valuable time away from the job at hand. I welcome feedback and collaboration from our staff so I can make sure their time is productive on what really matters. If we can continue growing our readership, in print and online, that's more eyeballs for advertisers, which helps us sell more and is a win for us.

## Can you share some of the financial wins, and also financial challenges, of the papers you acquired?

We have been able to turn around both papers and they are making a profit. For Mexico, being able to double our print readership was a huge positive in our first year. We have also increased our local ad count and revenue, while also identifying several areas where we could decrease expenses significantly, sometimes as easy as changing phone/internet providers.

When I first took over Mexico, I was concerned that the



*Continued, page 7*

## Growing Local

*Continued from page 6*

print frequency would need to be reduced from twice a week to once a week. We're fortunate that has not been the case and we have seen revenue growth.

Because our focus has been on the print side in year one, that has kept us from placing a real big emphasis on the digital side. While we have strong online readership, we've been slow to monetize that. However, that is a focus for year two.

We have only owned the Moberly Monitor-Index since September. However, we have already added more than 100 new subscribers, which has been nice to see in such a short period of time since we have spent the majority of the time hiring new staff and getting them settled into their positions. Again, we're listening and gathering feedback from the community. I expect us to see growth there in the first quarter of 2022.

Our biggest challenge moving forward is how do we keep this positive momentum since we're no longer the new kid in town. I feel continuing to evolve and introduce new ideas allows us to accomplish that. I want our company to

be innovative and take risks that companies our size can't or won't do. For example, some of the new staff we're hiring will bring a different skill set to each of our offices. We want to tell stories in different ways and this will allow us to repurpose our print content into many other digital platforms such as video so we're continuing to grow our audience and revenue.

### **Prior to owning your own newspapers you worked for larger newspaper companies. Why did you leave and decide to buy your own newspapers?**

I've always had a passion for the newspaper industry and believe the future is bright if we remain local and have decision making at a local level. That does not happen at a large company. I also think the industry is ready for some new blood. Some of the top newspaper leaders will be aging out soon and the industry needs new, young owners like myself and others who are willing to step up and fill the void. While we won't have the institutional knowledge that they have, we can bring new ideas to the table so that we can continue evolving with the times. ■

## Industry Spotlight



Newspapers looking for new sources of revenue might consider adding solutions journalism to their editorial mix.

The Solutions Journalism Network (SJM), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, has spent eight years teaching hundreds of newsrooms how to broaden their news product by including rigorous journalism about responses to problems. Even two- or three-person newsrooms can do solutions journalism — and reap its benefits.

Research shows that by far the biggest reason readers disengage from the news is that reading the news makes them feel despairing and powerless.

Solutions journalism is an antidote. When readers see that solutions exist, they re-engage with the news. Solutions stories can also increase community trust in and engagement with a news outlet, and increase the real-world impact of journalism.

Two recent studies show that solutions journalism can also help a newspaper's bottom line more directly. SJM

did a pilot study with 12 struggling newsrooms, including those serving rural, Black or Latinx readers. Together, in the midst of COVID-19, they raised \$1.5 million in new revenue for solutions projects from philanthropic donations, business sponsorships and new advertising.

In addition, a recent study of a year's worth of audience data from a dozen publishers shows that solutions journalism is likely to lead to increased reader revenue. Solutions journalism readers accounted for disproportionate return activity and engagement on news websites: readers spent more time on sites when the session included solutions stories — and they were more likely to be newsletter subscribers.

Publishers can capitalize on this research by integrating solutions journalism into the news and signposting it so their brand becomes associated with being helpful to the community. Publishers can place messages about reader revenue programs next to solutions stories or make solutions stories the anchor of newsletters and fundraising appeals.

For more information, for a solutions journalism training for your newsroom, or to discuss how to align solutions journalism with revenue, contact Fara Warner at [fara@solutionsjournalism.org](mailto:fara@solutionsjournalism.org).

# Dirks, Van Essen & April 2021 Transactions

## GANNETT SOLD

GRANITE FALLS (MN) ADVOCATE-TRIBUNE  
 MONTEVIDEO (MN) AMERICAN NEWS  
 REDWOOD (MN) FALLS GAZETTE  
 CROOKSTON (MN) TIMES  
 SLEEPY EYE (MN) HERALD-DISPATCH  
 ST. JAMES (MN) PLAINDEALER  
 COTTONWOOD (MN) TRI-COUNTY NEWS



TO CHERRYROAD MEDIA

## DELPHOS HERALD, INC. SOLD

FALMOUTH (KY) OUTLOOK



TO NEMAR MEDIA, LLC

## VOICE MEDIA GROUP SOLD

HOUSTONPRESS.COM



## CHRONICLE-NEWS MEDIA GROUP SOLD

TRINIDAD (CO) CHRONICLE-NEWS



TO CHERRYROAD MEDIA

## GANNETT SOLD

LA JUNTA TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT  
 FOWLER TRIBUNE  
 BENT COUNTY DEMOCRAT  
 AG JOURNAL



CHERRYROAD MEDIA

## GRANITE PUBLICATIONS SOLD

10 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS IN TEXAS



TO GRANITE MEDIA PARTNERS

## GANNETT SOLD

MOBERLY (MO) MONITOR-INDEX



TO WESTPLEX MEDIA GROUP

## LANDMARK COMMUNICATIONS SOLD

46 DAILY AND WEEKLY  
 NEWSPAPERS IN SEVEN STATES



TO PAXTON MEDIA GROUP



# Dirks, Van Essen & April 2021 Transactions, continued

## GANNETT SOLD

MIAMI (OK) NEWS-RECORD  
GROVE (OK) GRAND LAKE NEWS  
DELAWARE COUNTY (OK) JOURNAL



TO REID NEWSPAPERS

## KING FAMILY SOLD

NORTH VERNON (IN) PLAIN DEALER & SUN



TO PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

## GANNETT SOLD

PITTSBURG (KS) MORNING SUN



TO PITTSBURG PUBLISHING CO., LLC

## HUNTER FAMILY SOLD

MADISON (SD) DAILY LEADER



TO WICK COMMUNICATIONS

## TRAPP FAMILY SOLD

THE TRANSYLVANIA (NC) TIMES



TO CNHI, LLC

## GANNETT SOLD

CHEROKEE COUNTY (KS) NEWS-ADVOCATE  
SEK VOICE



TO THE HIATT FAMILY

## PAXTON MEDIA GROUP SOLD

RED OAK (IA) EXPRESS  
GLENWOOD (IA) OPINION TRIBUNE



TO J. LOUIS MULLEN

## PAXTON MEDIA GROUP SOLD

LAS VEGAS (NM) OPTIC



TO O'ROURKE MEDIA GROUP

2021 Dirks, Van Essen & April Transactions, continued

**PAXTON MEDIA GROUP SOLD**

HUSKER'S ILLUSTRATED



TO NICHOLAS HOLDINGS

**GANNETT SOLD**

NEOSHO (MO) DAILY NEWS  
AURORA (MO) ADVERTISER



TO SEXTON MEDIA GROUP

**LAFROMBOISE COMMUNICATIONS SOLD**

CENTRALIA (WA) CHRONICLE  
BATTLE GROUND REFLECTOR  
NISQUALLY VALLEY NEWS



TO CT PUBLISHING

**QUINCY MEDIA SOLD**

QUINCY (IL) HERALD WHIG  
HANNIBAL (MO) COURIER-POST



TO PHILLIPS MEDIA GROUP

**GANNETT SOLD**

LAKE SUN  
LAKE OF THE OZARKS REAL ESTATE  
BOATS MAGAZINE  
LAKE LIFESTYLES MAGAZINES  
VACATION NEWS



TO VERNON PUBLISHING

**GANNETT SOLD**

BAXTER BULLETIN (MOUNTAIN HOME, AR)  
THE BIG NICKEL (JOPLIN, MO)  
ROLLA (MO) DAILY NEWS  
KIRKSVILLE (MO) DAILY EXPRESS  
NEMO TRADER (LA PLATA, MO)



TO PHILLIPS MEDIA GROUP

**THIRTEENTH STREET MEDIA SOLD**

EXPLORER NEWSPAPER  
FOOTHILLS NEWS  
DESERT TIMES  
MARANA NEWS  
INSIDE TUCSON BUSINESS  
TUCSON WEEKLY



TO TIMES MEDIA GROUP

**GANNETT SOLD**

20 DAILY AND WEEKLY  
NEWSPAPERS IN KANSAS,  
MISSOURI, IOWA AND NEBRASKA



TO CHERRYROAD MEDIA, INC.