From: Perry Boxx
Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2025 12:57 PM
To: WPSD Newsteam
Cc: Bill Evans; WPSD Team
Subject: a very poorly kept secret

Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that nearly eight years have gone by since I was privileged to join this group of professionals.

It has been a remarkably meaningful time for me, professionally and personally.

For that I am grateful, and I thank each of you.

I am writing to confirm that I will be leaving our team at the end of the year. I have advised Bill Evans and Jamie Paxton that December 31 will be my last day with the company. I am making the announcement now to provide time for a smooth transition to new leadership.

I am particularly grateful to Paxton West Kentucky Media Group President Bill Evans, a friend of more than thirty years who trusted me to practice the kind of accountability and local service journalism we both believe in so deeply. Bill provided unwavering support for our news team through lawsuits, literally hundreds of open records battles, coverage of unspeakable tragedies, the pandemic, the consolidation of our news operations into a wonderful modern facility and the dozens and dozens of community projects and events each year that seek an always improving quality of life for the communities we serve.

I am grateful too for all the help I received along the way from colleagues with whom I worked in fourteen states over the years.

I have some thoughts for those of you who labor in the trenches of local news. Some of you have heard these things from me before. Some things are worth repeating.

I want to be clear. In a democracy TRUTH is not negotiable. Not in the White House, the halls of Congress, the Statehouse or in a small-town City Hall. I return to the words of Justice Hugo Black, yet again. "In the First Amendment the Founding Fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to fulfill its essential role in our democracy. The press was to serve the governed, not the governors. The Government's power to censor the press was abolished so that the press would remain forever free to censure the Government. The press was protected so that it could bare the secrets of government and inform the people. Only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government."

We work to serve the governed. It is that simple.

The American Experiment has always been a work in progress. The Constitution makes clear the unambiguous responsibility of every person we elect to help us PERFECT our Democracy. The first words of the constitution tell us we are creating a "more perfect union." Our goals are listed in this order: to "establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity".

The prime directive for every journalist is the commitment made possible by the First Amendment to demand accountability and transparency from our "public servants." We must honor the goals and guard them jealously. We must publish and broadcast when the goals are ignored or attacked. We speak truth to power not with our opinions but with the questions for which we demand answers.

I know of no journalism fundamental that contemplates treating a lie as "their side of the story." A lie is a lie. Lies that attack the goals of American Democracy are an abomination.

I'll close now with the words of Edward Kennedy remembering his brothers, "The work goes on, the cause endures, hope still lives and the dream shall never die."

That seems like a good place to end this note.

Hero and I wish all of you the very best.

Perry Boxx
News Director
Executive Editor