

Journal Staff Ready For New Challenge



John
Kuykendall
Publisher,
Editor

Thanks to everyone!

I really appreciate the words of support and encouragement I've received since last week's announcement about my new status with The Harris County

Journal. However, I would like to point out that I've never been gone. I've simply been working in a different capacity for the past 18 months.

I've been asked by some people if there was a problem between Andy, Vicki and I. There has never been, and I hope will never be, any problems between Andy, Vicki and myself. As a matter of fact, we not only have a mutual respect for each other as co-workers, but have developed a friendship. One thing we all share, even now, is a genuine love for Harris County.

Having said all of that, I'm going to address some of the other questions that have been asked of me in the past couple of weeks around the county.

While I won't be attending as many meetings as I used to or certain county functions, I assure each of you it will not be because I do not desire to do so. It is simply that my duties are somewhat different now. However, I assure each of you I will be very active in the decision making process and determining the direction the newspaper will follow. As always, I continue to have an open door policy. If anyone, anytime wants to speak with me I'm only as far away as the telephone.

THE TASK THAT has been laid before me would be impossible without a dedicated and hard working staff. I'm extremely lucky to have a very capable staff and most of our readers will recognize them.

Michael Snider will return to his position of Associate Editor. Michael was transferred to Manchester and has worked by my side diligently in our effort to improve the two Meriwether County newspapers. I feel we have accomplished many of the goals we set for ourselves in Meriwether County, and believe the newspapers are certainly among the premiere weekly newspapers around the state.

Michael, like myself, is a Harris County resident. He and his wife, Kathryn, reside in Pine Mountain. Michael's photography and writing skills have helped me take the Meriwether newspapers to a higher level. He has an eye for photography

Association Award winning photographer. Michael will play an even larger role in Harris County.

Linda Lester, a Hamilton resident, will continue to serve as our advertising representative. Linda is well known and is a former president of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce. Her dedication and community interest will be a tremendous asset to The Journal.

Pam Baker will be the only newcomer, if you will, to the team. Baker, a free lance writer from Phenix City, will be assigned governmental news. Her main job will be covering the Harris County Commission, Development Authority, etc. Baker is an excellent reporter and has written for some of the state's most well known publications such as Georgia Trend Magazine.

Lauren King, a 2000 graduate of Harris County High will join our production team. Lauren's design work earned one of our company's publications a Georgia Press Association Better Newspaper Contest Award last year. Lauren has been employed by our company since she was a student at Harris County High School, but has always worked in the Manchester office.

Sarah Rutherford, a resident of Pine Mountain Valley and a Harris County High School student, will serve as our Office Manager during the summer and will also help in production, news writing, etc.

Valinda Ivery, who has been on The Journal production staff for many years, will remain in her present position as well. Valinda will be responsible for most of our typesetting and other production needs.

SO, AS YOU can see, our President and CEO Millard Grimes, has compiled a very strong and talented staff to produce your newspaper. We hope to continue to improve the newspaper, just as Andy and Vicki have over the past couple of years. Mr. Grimes has always said, The Harris County Journal will be our flagship newspaper. I assure you, he will keep all of us on our toes, because he will accept nothing less.

Again, The Journal staff is among the hardest working and most talented people I've ever been associated with in my many years experience in newspapers. I believe this staff will no doubt, in time, take an already fine newspaper to another level.