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**FAMILY-OWNED COLLIERVILLE HERALD JOINS
AMERICAN HOMETOWN PUBLISHING NETWORK**

FRANKLIN, Tenn. – Dec. 18, 2007 – *The Collierville Herald*, a 4,600-circulation family-owned weekly newspaper in Collierville, Tenn., has joined American Hometown Publishing, a newspaper publishing network focused on preserving the integrity and autonomy of community journalism.

Founded in 1870, *The Herald* is the oldest newspaper in Shelby County. It has been owned since January 1, 1988, by Pritchardt Publishing Company whose principal owner was the late Van Pritchardt, Jr., longtime Memphis newsman and managing editor of *The Memphis Press-Scimitar*, until it was closed by Scripps-Howard in 1983. Pritchardt and two partners purchased the paper from the late Mayor of Collierville, Herman Wright Cox, who concluded that owning the paper in addition to his elected office represented a conflict of interest.

Pritchardt served as editor and publisher of *The Herald* until his death in June 2007. Under his direction, the paper expanded its coverage of local events, became computerized, increased circulation and developed the professional standards Pritchardt wanted it to have.

“It was a very difficult decision for our family to sell the paper, but after my father died this summer we realized that operating *The Herald* took more expertise than we were able to provide,” said Pritchardt’s daughter, Mary Muscari. “Although we were approached by others, it wasn’t until we reached out to and began discussions with American Hometown Publishing that we felt we had found a company that represents what we want for Collierville and *The Herald*.”

We believe they will do their best to maintain the legacy my father helped establish.”

American Hometown Publishing has assumed operation of the paper and has named Cheryl McGraw publisher. McGraw was publisher of the *Bulletin Times*, a weekly newspaper in nearby Bolivar, Tenn.

“I’m very excited about the opportunity to join the American Hometown Publishing family and I look forward to continuing the legacy of *The Collierville Herald*,” McGraw said.

American Hometown Publishing acquires and manages community newspapers with circulations of 25,000 or less by forming partnerships with local publishers and growing their newspapers through proven revenue and market expansion efforts. American Hometown Publishing owns other community newspapers in Tennessee, including Trenton, Dyer, Humboldt, Brownsville, Covington, Waynesboro and Henderson, as well as newspapers in Virginia and Oklahoma.

“*The Collierville Herald* is a newspaper our network can help grow and prosper,” said L. Daniel Hammond, president and CEO of American Hometown Publishing. “We have assembled a great team with the unified mission of continuing to build upon the great history of this paper, by improving its operations and strengthening our relationships with its readers and the community.”

American Hometown Publishing’s founders have more than 60 years’ experience in all levels of the media industry – publishing, advertising, marketing and management of community newspaper operations.

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About American Hometown Publishing

American Hometown Publishing, Inc. (www.americanhometownpublishing.com), based in Nashville, Tenn., is a growing network of weekly and small daily community newspapers with a circulation of 25,000 or less. Publishing partners continue local leadership and involvement while receiving financial interest in a growing company. American Hometown Publishing preserves local editorial independence, growing the newspaper through revenue increases, regional cooperation and market expansion.