



CONTACT: Nancy DeKalb
KVBPR
615-248-8202
ndekalb@kvbpr.com

**AMERICAN HOMETOWN PUBLISHING HIRES SENIOR VP OPERATIONS
Mezzatesta Brings 28 Years of Community Journalism Experience**

FRANKLIN, Tenn. – Feb. 2, 2009 – Jeffrey Mezzatesta, a 28-year veteran of community journalism and publishing management, is the new senior vice president of operations for [American Hometown Publishing](#), a growing network of weekly and small daily community newspapers.

Previously, Mezzatesta was president and publisher of [Chesapeake Publishing Corporation](#) in Elkton, Md., a community newspaper publishing and offset web commercial printing company now part of American Consolidated Media.

“Jeff has an outstanding track record of success in managing and growing multiple community newspaper properties,” said L. Daniel Hammond, chairman, president and CEO of American Hometown Publishing. “He knows community newspapers and is engaged with both the routine and the unusual problems of running them. He’s also a major problem solver who takes a hands-on approach and coaches others to success.”

Mezzatesta has experience in revenue building, new product development and reviving troubled publications. He is a past president of the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Press Association which serves 165 newspaper members in the region. He began his journalism career with Chesapeake Publishing Corporation in 1980 as a reporter, after graduating from Temple University.

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Based in Franklin, Tenn., American Hometown Publishing is a network of weekly and small daily community newspapers with circulation under 25,000. Currently, there are 14 in the network in Oklahoma, Tennessee and Virginia.

American Hometown Publishing preserves local editorial independence, growing the newspaper through revenue increases, regional cooperation and market expansion. Publishing partners continue local leadership and involvement while receiving financial interest in a growing company.

Mezzatesta joins a company whose founders have more than 60 years of experience in all levels of the media industry – publishing, advertising, marketing and management of community newspaper operations.

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