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### **AMERICAN HOMETOWN PUBLISHING ACQUIRES *THE SHOPPER***

**FRANKLIN, Tenn.** – Jan. 30, 2009 -- [American Hometown Publishing](#), a community newspaper network, has purchased *The Shopper*, a family-owned, free-circulation publication that is based in Gibson, Tenn., and serves six surrounding counties.

“This new business relationship follows several years of friendly competition and placing ads in each other’s publications, which led to partnering as a natural next step,” said Jim McMillion, founder and publisher of *The Shopper*.

American Hometown Publishing will operate *The Shopper* separately, in order to maintain the editorial integrity of its network of community newspapers. There will be no changes in *The Shopper’s* staff of 12 people and its management team which includes McMillion, his wife and son.

“While the editorial integrity of the community newspapers will be protected, advertisers will benefit by having the opportunity to efficiently reach a broader West Tennessee audience with the convenience of one invoice for advertising placed in newspapers and *The Shopper*, if desired,” said L. Daniel Hammond, chairman, president and CEO of American Hometown Publishing.

Founded by McMillion in 1991, *The Shopper* has a circulation of more than 83,000 in six counties, including Gibson, Crockett, Lauderdale, Tipton, Madison and Fayette. American Hometown Publishing owns community newspapers in, or adjacent to, those counties.

“In the 17 years of building this publication, I’ve competed with a number of newspapers in West Tennessee,” said McMillion. “I never would have

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imagined joining forces, until American Hometown Publishing came along. I'm truly excited about bringing my shopper knowledge to them for use in future markets."

Based in Franklin, Tenn., American Hometown Publishing, Inc. is a growing network of weekly and small daily community newspapers with a circulation of 25,000 or less. American Hometown Publishing preserves local editorial independence, growing the newspaper through revenue increases, regional cooperation and market expansion.

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