



## American Hometown PUBLISHING

*Honoring Community Journalism*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **AMERICAN HOMETOWN PUBLISHING ACQUIRES ALBRECHT NEWSPAPERS IN WEST TENNESSEE** **Company Preserves Integrity and Autonomy of Community Newspapers**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – Oct. 19, 2006 – American Hometown Publishing has acquired family-owned Albrecht Newspapers Inc., which includes three West Tennessee newspapers that have each been publishing for more than a century.

The Tennessee acquisition by the publishing network includes the *Brownsville States-Graphic*, *The Covington Leader* and the *Chester County Independent* (Henderson). The newspapers have a combined circulation of 14,900.

“We believed in providing a strong, quality product to our readers and upholding the values of community journalism,” said Joe Albrecht, who retires as president of Albrecht Newspapers Inc. after 50 years in community journalism. “I believe we have accomplished that goal and therefore have served our communities well. I look forward to watching American Hometown Publishing grow and prosper.”

In keeping with American Hometown Publishing’s mission of preserving the integrity and autonomy of community journalism, Albrecht’s son, Jay, will continue as publisher of *The Covington Leader* and group manager of the other two papers. Connie Albrecht, Joe’s wife of 36 years, will remain as manager of the corporate bookkeeping operation in Cookeville. Danny Dean will continue as publisher of the *Brownsville States-Graphic* and Scott Whaley remains publisher of the *Chester County Independent*, established in 1865, making it the oldest, continually run business in the county.

“For me, selling to and being a part of American Hometown Publishing is about the future,” said Jay Albrecht. “It’s been my family’s dream for years to establish a quality group of community newspapers in Tennessee. While we had a great start in Brownsville, Covington and Henderson, joining American Hometown Publishing makes realizing my overall dreams even more likely.

“It was a very difficult decision to sell our newspapers, but the American Hometown Publishing philosophy made deciding who to sell to very easy. I’m delighted and excited to be part of the American Hometown Publishing team and look forward to what the future will bring.”

American Hometown Publishing acquires and manages community newspapers with a circulation of 25,000 or less by forming partnerships with local

publishers and growing their newspapers through proven revenue and market expansion efforts.

“Our goal is to maintain the papers’ tradition of local news focus while growing their operations to build even stronger papers for the readers and communities,” said L. Daniel Hammond, president and CEO of American Hometown Publishing. “These three newspapers are perfect examples of the kind of local papers we’re seeking for our network. They all date back more than a century and have a loyal readership on which we hope to build.”

According to Hammond, American Hometown Publishing enables its publishing partners to sustain local leadership and involvement while helping them improve their business operations, increase their revenues and profits and build their readership through additional resources and expertise.

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

Hammond created Publishing Group of America and *American Profile*, a weekly magazine dedicated to covering the good news about life in America’s hometowns. The magazine is considered the second largest publishing launch in U.S. history and now is the fourth largest weekly publication in North America. All three Albrecht newspapers carry *American Profile*.

Steve Young, also a former founder of Publishing Group of America, is a founding partner and director of American Hometown Publishing. Other company principals include Ron Fryar, vice president of operations, with a 30-year background of managing community newspapers most recently with Morris Newspapers; and Stephanie Jameson, director of human resources, formerly director of human resources for Publishing Group of America/*American Profile* magazine.

“We have an experienced corporate team with a passion for community journalism, the commitment to uphold and grow local newspapers for their communities, and each member possesses a strong ethical and moral focus,” said Hammond.

American Hometown Publishing is based in Nashville and was funded by a group of investors led by The Solidus Company, including Petra Capital Partners, the Burch Investment group and others.

### **About American Hometown Publishing**

American Hometown Publishing, Inc. ([www.americanhometownpublishing.com](http://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.

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