

# NEW OWNERS



**NEW OWNERS** – The *Humboldt Chronicle*, along with sister newspaper the *Tri-City Reporter*, have new owners, American Hometown Publishing. President Dan Hammond, from right, along with vice president of operations Ron Fryar look at last weeks editions of both newspapers with *Humboldt Chronicle* editor April Jackson and *Tri-City Reporter* editor Cindy East.

## AHP acquires Humboldt Chronicle

The *Humboldt Chronicle* has been acquired by American Hometown Publishing, a company with the motto: “honoring community journalism”.

The sale was finalized Thursday and company officials were in town Friday to introduce themselves to the staff of the *Chronicle* and its sister newspaper, the *Tri-City Reporter*, located in Dyer.

AHP acquired the Humboldt weekly and the north Gibson County weekly newspapers, West Tennessee Publishing of Humboldt and a portion of the *Gazette* newspaper, the Trenton weekly.

At the outset, nothing changes, according to AHP president Dan Hammond. He refuted rumors of the *Chronicle* closing its doors, which circulated in Humboldt last week.

AHP was formed to create the antithesis of traditional newspaper groups. “That may seem like a nice sound bite, but in this case, it is the foundation of what we have envisioned since building this organization in 2003,” said Hammond.

“Our focus is trained on the communities we serve and we support and honor those who create the journalism,” Hammond added.

American Hometown Publishing acquires and manages community newspapers by forming partnerships with local

publishers. The newspapers were sold by InfoStructure News Media, the company formed from Warmath Communications. The Warmath family has owned the *Humboldt Chronicle*, the *Tri-City Reporter* and a portion of the *Gazette* for two generations. Included in the sale is West Tennessee Publishing, the printing company of the group.

“We understand that local stories and local relationships are what make a community newspaper successful and what keep the newspaper growing with the community it serves. Our local publishing partners remain involved. In fact, they continue to hire, manage and plan for succession with their staffs. We provide additional resources and expertise to help our community newspaper partners implement proven sales and marketing programs and launch new products and services,” Hammond said.

AHP recently acquire weekly newspapers in Brownsville, Covington and Henderson, Tennessee. They are based in Nashville and have other newspapers in Virginia and Oklahoma.

Vice president of operations at AHP is Ron Fryar, who is active in the Tennessee Press Association and president of the Tennessee Press Association Foundation.

*Chronicle* editor April Jackson lauded her staff on their professional tact during the lengthy process.