

THE EXPRESS-TIMES

SPECIAL SECTION LAST DAY OF PRINT



Chris Boehke, Advance Local

For 169 years, The Express has been there for the Lehigh Valley region.

Today will be the last day it appears on local doorsteps.

FAREWELL, OLD FRIEND

Steve Novak For The Express-Times

There were no Crayola crayons when The Express-Times was born. Nor Bethlehem Steel. There was no Musikfest. No Peace Candle. No Route 22. There was no airport, indeed there were no airplanes. There was no Easton-Phillipsburg Thanksgiving Day football rivalry because there was neither football nor Thanksgiving. But there was news. There were 31 states in the U.S. as of 1855, and they were careening toward Civil War. Railroads were just expanding into Easton, then still a borough of about 7,000. The small newspaper that would become The Express-Times first appeared on doorsteps the morning of Nov. 5, 1855, a Monday.

For 169 years, The Express-Times and its predecessors — The Easton Daily Express, the Easton Argus and The Bethlehem Globe-Times — have covered their communities, serving as records of local history by reporting on the impacts of wars, pandemics, elections and manhunts, tragedies and celebrations.

The publications found ways to adapt, grow and merge. Crowds used to gather outside the newspaper building for sports results. There were spinoff radio stations and press innovations. Staffing expanded as print circulation grew, then painfully contracted as audiences shifted to new digital formats, where the paper's legacy will continue after the tradition of a printed, physical newspaper ends today.

According to various accounts of the newspaper's history over the

years, The Express-Times was born into a mid-19th century world with plenty of competition, but no successful Pennsylvania dailies north of Philadelphia. Over a century and a half of local news coverage by the Lehigh Valley's longest-running daily newspaper started with a chance meeting of two men named William — and a coin flip.

'THE EXPERIMENT' BEGINS

The year was 1855. Illuminating gas was new in Easton. So was the George Taylor monument in Easton Cemetery, honoring the Eastonian who signed the Declaration of Independence 79 years earlier. Lafayette College had fewer than 100 students. And the advancement of trains was viewed with skepticism in a town where many made their living on the Delaware River.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE S2

FROM THE EDITOR

It's always been more about people than prizes



Nick Falsone
For The Express-Times

Russ Flanagan, The Express-Times cops and courts reporter in the mid 2000s, did his best work in the throes of chaos.

He regularly disarmed combative sources with his infectious laugh. He wrote with great care and attention to detail, sometimes from uncomfortable places like the outskirts of police tape in a dark alley or near flashing lights and mangled metal on the shoulder of Route 22. He realized that getting it wrong wasn't an option.

He earned a reputation as a trusted storyteller in the Lehigh Valley.

Russ epitomized an approach to local reporting that allowed this institution to thrive for nearly 170 years and will help us continue to thrive as we evolve.

Today marks the last day The Express-

Times will come off a printing press, but it will continue to live digitally, seven days a week, in a move that allows us to serve an audience that has shifted to consuming news online.

It's the right move, but also bittersweet given the critical role the printed newspaper once played in this community.

In this commemorative edition, you'll read about this institution's biggest milestones, including a 1972 Pulitzer Prize for editorials on race relations and our Toner Prize-winning political coverage ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

Remarkable stuff, for sure, but it's always been more about the people than the prize in this newsroom. And that brings me to Russ, the trusted storyteller, one of hundreds who have earned the title through their hard work over the years for The Express-Times readership.

Russ, a dear friend, died on Feb. 5, 2008, in his Whitehall Township apartment,

stricken by an undetected heart condition. He was 33. I've never written about him publicly, but kept thinking of him while preparing to sunset the printed newspaper.

In death, he reminded us that we work at a special place. A place where inexplicable bonds emerged from seeing the best and worst of humanity together. A place where you grew to depend on your coworkers for more than just their words on a deadline. A place where the loss of a reporter of Russ' caliber radiated beyond our newsroom.

Law enforcement officials, attorneys and judges also mourned Russ in the days following his death. "You knew him as well as I did. He was very athletic and very conscientious about his health and well-being," the Lehigh County coroner told us in reporting Russ died of a cardiac condition, sounding more like a family member sharing bad news about a relative back home.

SEE FROM THE EDITOR, S3



Russ Flanagan, a former Express-Times cops and courts reporter, gestures from his desk in the newsroom at 30 N. Fourth St. in Easton. File photo

SPECIAL SECTION LAST DAY OF PRINT

Farewell, old friend

Continues from S1

It was a fall day when William L. Davis and William Eichman bumped into each other at Fourth and Northampton streets. Eichman — a 24-year-old printer and great-grandson of the founder of the region's first newspaper, a German-language weekly in 1793 — saw an opportunity for a daily paper in Easton. Davis, a 28-year-old journalist fresh off a stint at the short-lived Daily Eastonian, needed a job.

That conversation led to a partnership and, through a flip of the coin, a name for the new publication, according to a 1923 account of the newspaper's own history. Random chance led to Express over Courier, News or Herald.

"We have determined to try the experiment," the founders wrote in the first edition of The Easton Daily Express on Nov. 5, 1855, expressing both trepidation and hope. There was no guarantee of success; weekly papers had found a local footing, but a later Express account says at least four other attempts at Easton dailies had failed. Davis and Eichman had the ability, but no office, equipment or staff. They borrowed time in the printing facility of another German weekly on Northampton Street. They gathered the news, wrote it, set the press type, proofed, printed and delivered the first issues early in the morning all themselves. A young boy hired to roll ink on the type was the only other employee.

The first edition of that little four-page, four-column paper went for 2 cents a copy to about 250 subscribers. Contemporaries at the (weekly) Easton Argus, Philadelphia Daily Times, New York Tribune and Pittsburgh Evening News ran congratulatory statements welcoming the fledgling paper, according to The Express' history in 1923.

Newspapers at this time had no photos, just gray columns of text. Observations, editorials, ads, and letters ran with little in the way of headlines.

But the second issue of The Express did something now common in journalism — it got a local angle on national news.

Kansas Gov. Andrew Reeder, an Easton native surely known to most Americans at the time, returned home. In an event foreshadowing the Civil War, a pro-slavery mob tried to hang him — Reeder fled the Kansas territory disguised as a woodcutter. Greeted by a crowd and a band, Reeder gave a speech that The Express attempted to run in full. It was too much for a single issue, and some carried over to the following day.

The Easton Daily Express paused publication for about a year in 1862 when the proprietors joined the Union Army, the only significant production gap in The Express-Times' history.

Competition was fierce with more than 50 newspapers started in Easton alone during the 19th century, according to later accounts. Eichman himself left to join the competing Easton Weekly Argus, leaving Davis as the Daily Express' sole proprietor until his death in 1870.

But the paper endured. The newspaper dropped "daily" from the name in 1867, going instead by Easton Express — a name that some readers still associate with the publication today.

COMPETITION IN EASTON

The year was 1879. And another chance meeting inspired a fateful competitor in the Easton news business.

Two old friends, Oliver Fehr and J. Peter Cornell, struck up a conversation in the circle one summer day, devising plans to spin a daily newspaper, the Easton Argus, off the successful weekly of the same name, according to the 1923 history of The Express. They initially borrowed time on the same press as The Daily Express. The Daily Argus was the first penny paper in the Lehigh Valley, forcing several competitors, The Daily Express included, to lower their prices in response.

In its introductory editorial, the Argus identified itself as "an answer (to) the demand for a Democratic daily" — such overt partisanship was not unusual at the time — and sought to establish itself as "a chronicle of local and general information" seeking to "rank with its contemporaries." News that day included an upcoming county fair in Easton and a reported coal discovery in Pike County.

Fehr managed the Argus through its entire 38-year run. Meanwhile, The Daily Express went through several ownership changes after Davis' death. George M. Reeder, the 29-year-old son of Andrew Reeder, ran The Express with editor Washington H. Bixler. After Reeder died, a group including Bixler formed the Express Publishing Co. and bought the paper, which they eventually sold to Howard B. Mutchler in the 1880s. Then U.S. Rep. Henry J. Steele and Easton banker Chester Snyder formed the Easton Publishing Co., a private company held by area families that acquired both The Express and the Daily Argus.

The Argus merged with The Easton Express on Nov. 5, 1917 — The Express' 62nd anniversary. The Easton Publishing Co. pledged "a better and larger newspaper" than either publication could achieve on its own. That day, the new Express ran a melancholy note in which Fehr thanked the community for supporting the Argus, a product of four decades of his life.

"My ambition was to have a paper credible to the community," he wrote. Fehr's publication established itself well enough to have lasting recognition. "Easton Express" was the title atop the new consolidated paper, but the Easton Argus name, though smaller, still appeared in the masthead for another 19 years.

THE 'LAST WORD IN NEWSPAPER PLANTS'

The year was 1923. Lafayette College was approaching 100 years old and St. Luke's hospital turned 50. President Warren G. Harding had died. Bootleggers and federal Prohibition agents constantly tried to outwit each other. And ice jams on the Delaware were sometimes broken up by planes dropping bombs.

Easton Express circulation had swelled dramatically since the Argus merger, from 4,000 to more than 20,000 in five years, the paper itself reported. The Express had left its office on South Bank Street and used the Argus' old facility at North Fourth and Church. But the operation needed a new home base — and a bigger press.

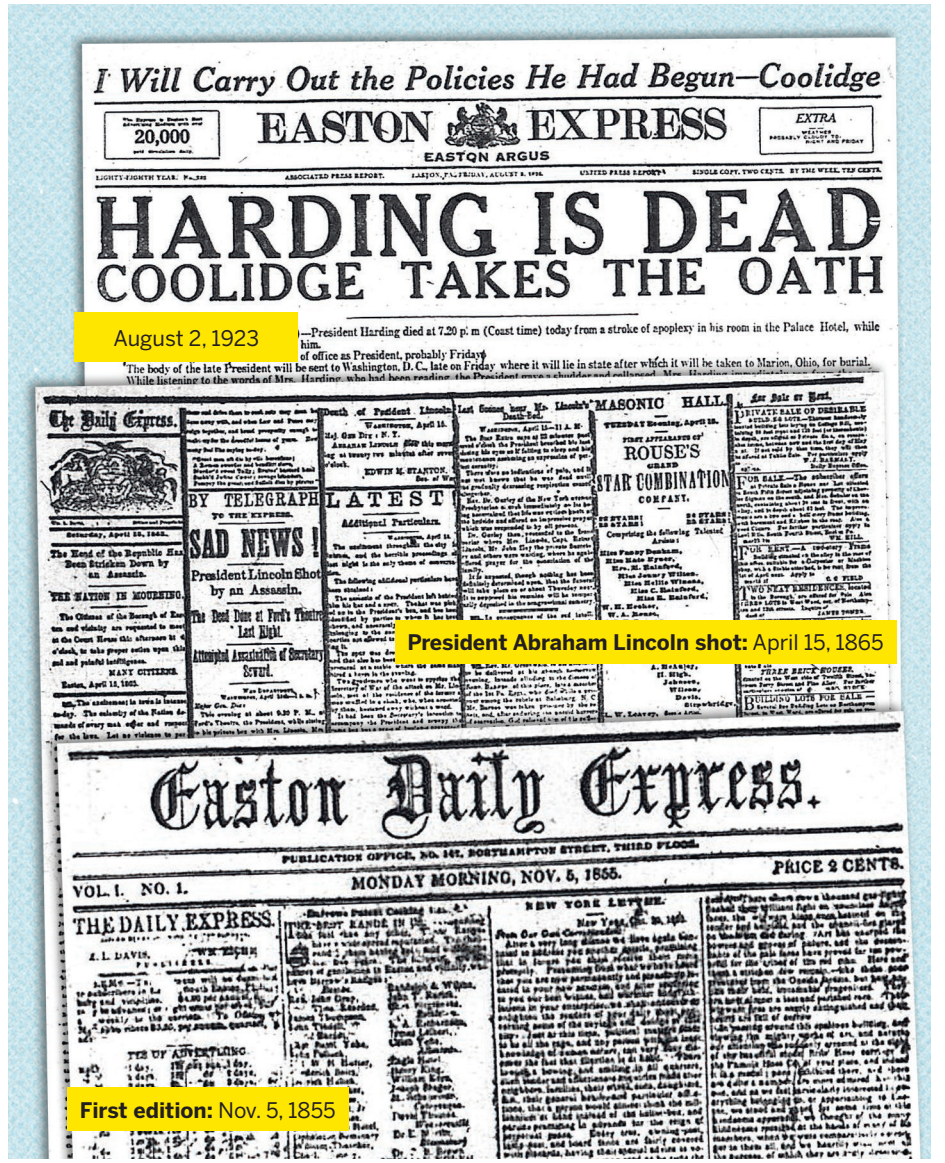
It got one. On an evening in late September, The Easton Express threw open the doors to its newly constructed offices at 30 N. Fourth St. More than 10,000 curious visitors wandered through the three-story building to see what the paper, in one headline, boldly declared to be the "last word in newspaper plants."

The tours — and a 13-page special section in that evening's paper — showed off the ornate business office where advertising staff placed ads. In the newsroom, reporters and editors had mahogany desks, each with a telephone. There were dictographs for general recording use. Wires and printers received Associated Press and United Press reports, and a pneumatic tube system sent copy and communications throughout the building.

There was the library and the "morgue," where photos, clippings and other information were stored. News and advertisements were arranged using machines in the composing room — "the beehive of the industry," the paper called it, very proud of the decision to place the composition team on the third floor for natural light and fresh air. Once composed, the forms went to the foundry to make press plates. The press itself, the newspaper bragged, could turn out 72,000 papers an hour with a capacity of 48 pages, and the building still had space for a second machine.

The Express found sporting ways to show off its new headquarters. In July, two months before the formal opening, "the largest crowd of fight fans ever gathered in Easton" assembled outside The Express building to hear live, punch-by-punch updates on a boxing match in Jersey City between Luis Angel Firpo and Jess Willard, provided by wire and radio. The Express bragged that it had the news of Firpo's winning knockout at least four minutes before anyone else in town.

That October, the paper installed a Playograph on the garage roof for the 1923 World Series. The mechanical contraption was a pre-TV electronic scoreboard, run by operators who got game updates via telegraph. Its lineup and field displays followed the game as it happened, showing where the ball was in play, runners'



positions on the base paths, outs, fouls, fly balls, grounders and umpire decisions. "It is," The Express described, "a real game played on a miniature field." And it was there for anyone who wanted to sit, watch and cheer in the paper's rear lot.

The Express building's design was inspired by contemporary newspaper plants but did not reflect any particular architectural style. The primary goal was functionality, a base to "provide as far as possible for the needs of the future" — a role it fulfilled for nearly a century.

There was no way of knowing it at the time, but it was here that papers would run with headlines about World War II and moon landings, about Mario Andretti's Indy 500 win and Larry Holmes' heavyweight title, about Route 22 opening and the Peace Candle's first construction. This is where the sports department would receive panicked phone calls about the "War of the Worlds" broadcast, and where reporters would scramble to make sense of the 9/11 attacks.

In this building, The Express — the only surviving Easton newspaper from its founding era — would turn 100 and 150 years old. It's where lehighvalleylive.com would launch in the early 2000s, ushering an old newspaper into the new millennium. But there was still so much to do.

BETHLEHEM'S PRIZE

The year was 1972. Years of racial strife had gripped Bethlehem. The Globe-Times was watching.

Editor John Strohmeier led an editorial campaign to reduce years of tension between city police and the Southside's growing Hispanic population. There was deadly gang violence, a youth center shut down, youths were beaten inside police headquarters and an incident report suppressed. It came to a head on Thanksgiving Eve in 1971, when a brawl at the Ale House on Southside spilled into the street. Police responded with a heavy hand and arrested 21 people for unlawful assembly, including Robert Thompson, a well-regarded youth leader and Freedom High School English teacher, who was trying to prevent the violence, not instigate it. When asked why Thompson was charged, a ranking officer reportedly replied, "Well, he was there."

"Police are losing the distinctions between the troublemakers and the peacemakers," Strohmeier wrote in an editorial lambasting the force for escalating tensions with overly simplified tactics. It was one of several that Strohmeier penned that year challenging the city to face up to "civic hostility, police brutality, and even bloodshed."

The series earned Strohmeier and The Globe-Times the Lehigh Valley's first Pulitzer Prize, journalism's highest honor, announced on May 1, 1972. The Pulitzer

headline ran above the masthead the next day, over news that J. Edgar Hoover had died.

Strohmeier was known for his hands-on style in the newsroom and later as an expert on the steel industry. For 28 years, from 1956 to 1984, he ran The Globe-Times — a publication now forever tied to The Express.

The Globe-Times started as the Daily Times on Feb. 4, 1867, about two years after the Civil War ended. That first edition included a brief mission statement of five short paragraphs in which the paper pledged to be "neutral in politics" and asked community support in the form of advertising and patronage. "We do not propose to make many promises," the editors wrote, "preferring to let our enterprise speak for itself." News of the day included proposed federal laws pardoning Confederate rebels, renovations to the Moravian Church in Bethlehem, and the matter of a stolen horse.

The Daily Times filled a news void in Bethlehem created when the weekly Lehigh Valley Times was bought and squashed by the Easton Free Press, another weekly, in 1862. In 1925, the Daily Times merged with the South Bethlehem Globe to create The Globe-Times.

The Globe-Times was there for the rise of Bethlehem Steel and the first Musikfest. But by 1991, two decades after its Pulitzer, The Globe-Times had suffered years of cutbacks and no longer ran a Sunday edition.

On Nov. 5, 1991 — The Express' 136th anniversary — Express owner Thomson Newspapers Corp. acquired The Globe-Times and renamed the consolidated paper The Express-Times. More than half of Globe-Times employees lost their jobs while about 50 continued on under the new name. The transition happened in a day, with Globe-Times staff putting out the last edition of their paper the afternoon of Nov. 4, then traveling to Easton to work on the first edition of The Express-Times that evening.

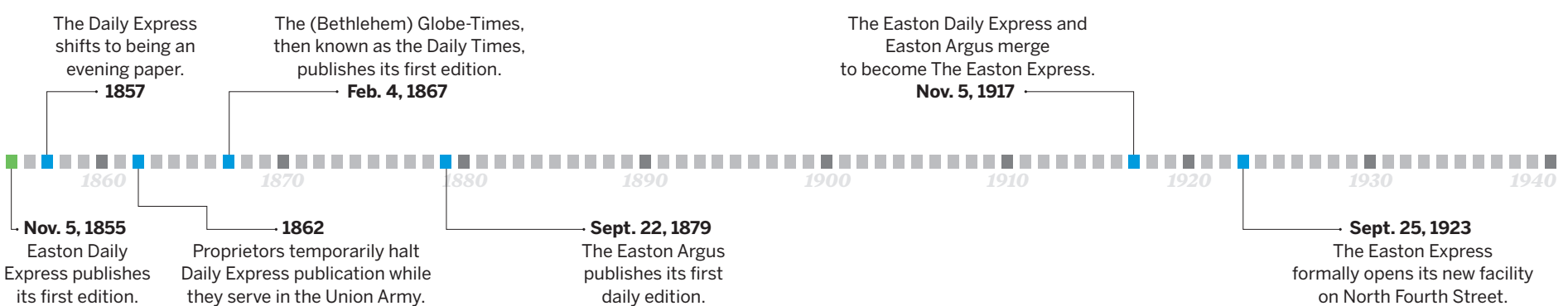
"From Hellertown to Hackettstown, from the Delaware Water Gap to Washington's Crossing, this diverse, two-state market now has a newspaper big enough to serve all of its readers," the new Express-Times crowed. Though the newspaper kept bureaus in Bethlehem and elsewhere for many years, some readers could not shake old reputations and memories of the days Bethlehem had its own unique paper. It was not uncommon for reporters to hear some variation of the question, "Express-Times? Isn't that an Easton paper?"

MODERN MOVES

The Easton Express saw its greatest growth under the ownership of the Easton Publishing Co. from 1917 through 1984, becoming a more regional paper. Larry Stackhouse, a business manager hired in 1917, became The Easton Express' president and editor in 1946.

FROM 1855 TO TODAY: A HISTORY OF THE EXPRESS-TIMES

Today, The Express-Times rolled off the presses for the last time, marking the end of a nearly 170-year run as a printed product. Here's a timeline of The Express-Times's evolution since its fledgling, pre-Civil War days. — Steve Novak





Under his leadership, the company entered the broadcasting business with WEX-FM. He also convinced the American Newspaper Publishers Association (ANPA) in 1948 to establish a technical research institute in Easton, which in 1951 grew to a dedicated facility in Forks Township.

This provided a direct benefit. The Easton Express installed a new press in 1959. In 1971, it converted production from hot lead type to computer-generated cold type. And a few years later, it changed its entire press line to a process developed by the ANPA Research Institute.

By the 1960s, The Easton Express had grown beyond a city paper to one with a presence in Northampton, Warren, Hunterdon, and parts of Bucks and Monroe counties. In 1973, it changed its name to The Express to reflect its regional coverage.

The first Express Sunday edition appeared in 1979, a response to larger competitors circulating in the region. It initially was not popular. About 2,000 readers canceled their subscriptions, feeling the paper had forced the Sunday edition on them. In The Express' 150th anniversary coverage, a reporter recalled subscribers picketing outside the office.

In 1989, The Express became a morning paper for the first time since 1857. It meant major internal changes as deadlines shifted and production moved to overnight hours. (The last time The Express-Times ran in the afternoon was the 9/11 extra edition.)

Until 1984, these decisions were governed by local ownership. That year, Easton Publishing Co. sold The Express and its weekly sister papers in New Jersey to Thomson Newspapers Inc., with spinoff radio stations WEEF and WQQQ also sold separately a few months later. Fears that the paper would be "emasculated" were unfounded, according to recollections in The Express-Times 150th anniversary special section. Instead, The Express operated with little meddling from above and in 1989 was recognized as one of the 14 best small-city newspapers in the nation by the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Three years after the Globe-Times merger, MediaNews Group of Denver, Colorado, bought The Express-Times and invested millions of dollars in a new press. Advance Publishing Inc. took over in 2000, putting The Express-Times under the ownership of the Newhouse family, which also owned The (Newark) Star-Ledger and (Harrisburg) Patriot-News.

DIGITAL SHIFT

The year was 2013. Francis was named the first pope from the Americas. The Philadelphia Eagles announced they would no longer hold training camp at Lehigh Uni-

versity. Musikfest turned 30.

And an era ended. After printing a daily paper in Easton nearly continuously for 158 years, The Express-Times halted local production.

It was a strategic but painful move. The Express-Times was instead printed in Staten Island, where a bigger, more modern press afforded more flexibility and more color. News gathering and production still happened locally. "We will continue to have the best looking and most vibrant newspaper in our market," which would provide leverage in a competitive media market, Express-Times President and Publisher Lou Stancampiano said at the time. But with several papers in the queue, press time was rigid, deadlines were earlier, and less evening news made it into the morning paper. Press operators and mailroom staff in Easton lost their jobs, one of several rounds of layoffs across all departments around this time.

It was part of a broad shift to digital formats. The news industry at large was struggling to balance declining paid print subscriptions, a growing but free online presence, and a more-diverse advertising landscape straining to fund them both. Even private ownership couldn't shield The Express-Times.

At the time of its last locally printed edition, The Express-Times was less than a decade removed from launching lehighvalleylive.com. (Before 2007, the web address in The Express-Times's masthead was for PennLive.com, another Advance property out of Harrisburg.) In fact, the last newspaper printed in Easton — June 2, 2013 — did not extensively report on the change.

To further streamline operations and reduce overhead, Advance consolidated its branches in the Lehigh Valley and New Jersey into NJ Advance Media in 2014. Besides streamlining leadership, each paper's copy desk — the editors responsible for print layout, proofing stories and writing headlines — was moved into one shared facility in Edison, New Jersey, further separating the printed newspaper from Easton.

News and advertising staff plugged away in the old Fourth Street office for another year. In 2015, the remaining staff vacated the outdated Easton Express building (which was eventually bought and repurposed into the Easton Police Department headquarters and Easton Arts Academy Elementary Charter School).

Instead, NJ Advance Media invested in a modern office on the first floor of the Alpha Building in Easton's Centre Square. The open-concept office with its large street-level windows intentionally felt more like an internet startup rather than an old-school newsroom. The sign over the entrance included both The Express-Times and lehighvalleylive.com, but reporters

CHANGING NAMES

The two papers that became The Express-Times went through many different names over their century-plus of existence.

EASTON EXPRESS

- Easton Daily Express:** 1855 — 1860
- Daily Evening Express:** 1860 — 1865
- Daily Evening Express and Lehigh Valley Advertiser:** 1865
- Easton Daily Express:** 1865 — 1866
- Daily Express:** 1866 — 1867
- Easton Express:** 1867 — 1917
- Easton Express, Easton Argus:** 1917 — 1936
- Easton Express:** 1936 — 1973
- Express:** 1973 — 1991
- Express-Times:** 1991 —

BETHLEHEM GLOBE TIMES

- Daily Times:** 1867
- Bethlehem Daily Times:** 1867 — 1889
- Daily Times:** 1889 — 1892
- Bethlehem Times:** 1892 — 1925
- Bethlehem Globe:** 1920 — 1925
- Bethlehem Globe Times:** 1925 — 1977
- Globe Times:** 1977 — 1991

Source: Easton Area Public Library

were increasingly instructed to focus on writing for the website.

And still, The Express-Times continued. Lehigh Valley headlines still ran under the familiar masthead, even though the same stories often appeared online first. Stories increasingly tacked toward different digital aspects such as social media or online search traffic over traditional writing structure, but local reporters still wrote them.

Outside the confines of print, reporters found innovative ways to present the issues, winning national recognition in the process. The "Swing County, Swing State" project covering the 2020 presidential election dove deeply into Northampton County's history of siding with presidential victors in electorally crucial Pennsylvania. The multistory project involved analyzing historical records and classic door-to-door reporting, as well as videos and visualized data formats. Versions of the stories ran in The Express-Times, but the full experience was online. The package won the 2021 Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting from Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications and was a finalist for an Online Journalism Award.

On the heels of "Swing County" came "Edged Out," a series of deeply researched stories supported by the USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism's 2021 National Fellowship about the gentrification of Southside Bethlehem, a community historically a first stop for immigrants.

THE LAST WORD

The last Saturday edition of The Express-Times ran on Dec. 30, 2023. Rising production costs and reduced demand for print forced the paper back to a six-day publishing schedule for the first time in more than 40 years.

Then, on Oct. 30, Advance Local announced that The Express-Times along with its New Jersey peers, including The Star-Ledger, would end print publication altogether. Instead, a seven-day, online-only newspaper format will complete the shift to digital that began decades ago.

Readership is measured less in subscribers (down 20% year-over-year for The Express-Times at the time of October's announcement) and more in online viewership (over 650,000 unique views for lehighvalleylive.com in August 2024). Eliminating print will free company resources "to invest in the digital future and cutting-edge technologies that can enrich the quality of our journalism and deliver more timely news with even greater frequency to our users," NJ Advance Media President Steve Alessi said in October.

It will also leave Easton without a city-based daily newspaper in print for the first time in almost two centuries.

After today, the legacy will live on in the journalism of lehighvalleylive.com and a digital version of the newspaper. But tomorrow's news will not appear in ink. It won't be delivered to doorsteps.

After today, the Lehigh Valley's oldest daily newspaper, long an enduring record of local history, becomes history itself.

FROM THE EDITOR

It's always been more about people than prizes

Continues from S1

I had driven to Russ' apartment the night of Feb. 5, 2008, after he didn't show up for work or respond to our calls throughout the day. He always showed up, so we were deeply concerned.

My knocks on his door went unanswered despite Russ' car being parked outside. I called the cops, and no one could get the landlord on the phone to open the door. Firefighters responded, forced entry and found Russ. He was already gone.

In the immediate aftermath, three people rushed to be by my side as I spoke with officers and staved off shock in the cold lot outside the apartment of my friend — Sara K. Satullo, Joseph P. Owens and Jim Deegan.

Sara was our dogged Warren County government reporter. Joe was our editor. Jim was our managing editor. We stood outside the building together, largely silent, until after the last responding officer left.

Sara and I went home. Joe and Jim went to the newsroom to report Russ' death to our fledgling online audience and write the story for the next edition of the newspaper.

City editor Eileen Holliday, out of town, would later deliver a magnificent eulogy at Russ' funeral.

Eileen's still a dear friend, despite leaving The Express-Times for a new job not long after Russ died. Jim and I are technically competitors as he's running lehighvalleynews.com these days, but we get together for coffee regularly. Joe's in the Philly area and we don't see each other enough, but he's always there for me when I reach out — his big, engaging personality almost swallowing the vital piece of wisdom he's providing.

Sara married me less than two years later. We celebrated our 15th anniversary in September. We're raising our two young boys in West Bethlehem.

All four contributed their own words for this commemorative edition.

They are among many former Express-Times staffers with contributions on these pages, familiar names to print subscribers who count their loyalty by the decades — Jim Flagg, Kelly Huth, Bruce Buratti, Sue Beyer, Tony Rhodin, to name a few. We hope you enjoy hearing from these legends one last time in print.

And rest assured that other familiar names — Rudy Miller, Kurt Bresswein, Kyle Craig, Pamela Sroka-Holzmann, Brad Wilson among them — will carry on their legacy of strong, impactful local journalism that's meaningful to this community.

They are among the most established local journalists right now in the Lehigh Valley, with more than a century of combined experience. And their work will continue to break new ground in the digital world, whether it's major projects last fall's Misfire, a deep dive into the culture war brewing among Pennsylvania's hunters, or our upcoming investigative piece into the havoc sinkholes are causing to the Lehigh Valley's infrastructure.

They are trusted storytellers in the community. That's not something that requires barrels of ink these days, but it requires good people. And we've always had the best at The Express-Times.

Russ Flanagan served as a police reporter and later Northampton County courts reporter for The Express-Times, starting in 2003 and ending with his Feb. 5, 2008 death. The Express-Times named its summer news internship in Flanagan's honor.

Nick Falsone is editor of lehighvalleylive.com and The Express-Times. He started in 2000 as a police reporter with the newspaper, working alongside Flanagan for five years and spending ample time outside of work getting in trouble alongside Flanagan. He became editor in 2017.

