

Point of View

Meet the editor

By Dan Burke

Hello to the readers of the Tri County Press. My name is Dan Burke and I am the new editor. In the next few paragraphs, I will introduce myself and let you know what I hope to accomplish.

I am originally from Chicago and grew up in the city's northwest suburbs. I still consider the city and suburbs my hometown despite living in rural northwest Illinois for the past decade and in Galena for the last three years.

I also have no intention of returning to the hectic urban lifestyle; the rural pace and community are a better fit for my sensibilities.

I graduated from Northern Illinois University with a degree in journalism and a minor in philosophy. Philosophy was my first love but pragmatism won out when it came to picking a career path. Throughout my years of schooling I discovered that I write well and have a skill set conducive to journalism.

I am a late convert to the world of journalism and received my degree later in life. I see my late start as a benefit; it has provided me a deeper well of experience and knowledge to draw from.

I have worked for the last five years as a reporter, most recently at the Galena Gazette, just south of the state line. The Gazette is a fine organization and was a great learning experience in the world of community newspapers. As a reporter, I have won awards for my work from the Illinois Press Association and the Northern Illinois Newspaper Association. I look forward to bringing all that I've learned here to the Tri County Press.

What I hope to bring to the Tri County Press is quality journalism wrapped in an appealing package. As both editor and reporter, I know I have my work cut out for me, but I am eager to meet this new challenge. I believe one of the most important roles of news media is to be the community watchdog and to shine light on the issues within each community. An equally important role is to tell the stories of the community-I look forward to doing both.

So far, the hardest part has been coming to a new area and not knowing anyone. I am at the ground floor but I look forward to learning about the communities that make up our readership and telling their stories. To that end, I need your help.

A community newspaper thrives when it has the support and engagement of the community. If you are a member of a group or organization looking for coverage the best thing to do is contact me. If you have story ideas or concerns, again, the best thing to do is contact me. I can be reached at tcpnews@yousq.net or by phone at 608-744-2071. Thank you for your support and interest in our paper.