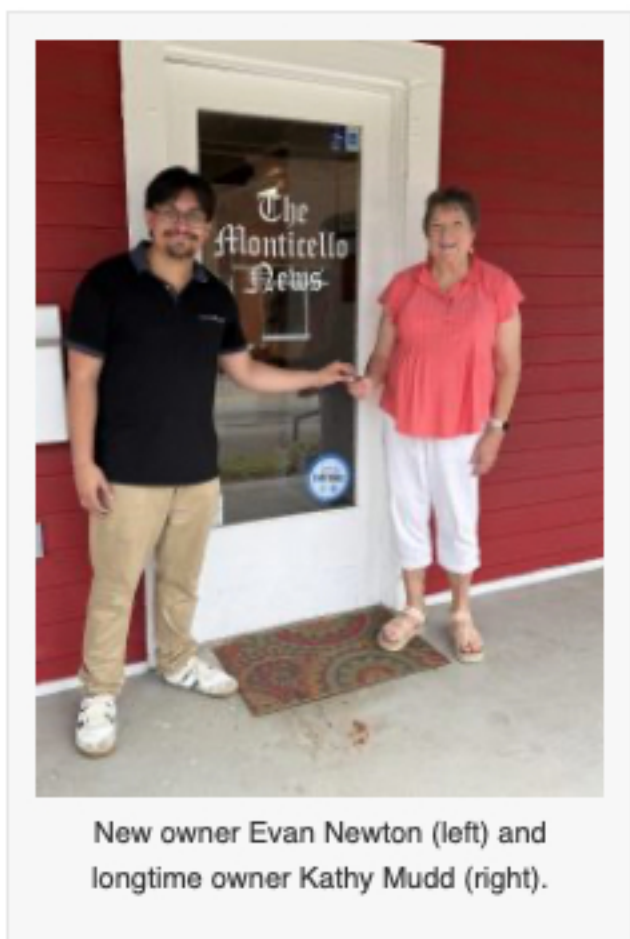


Monticello Native Evan Newton Purchases The Monticello News

By Editor | July 15, 2026 | 0



New owner Evan Newton (left) and longtime owner Kathy Mudd (right).

Longtime owner, editor and publisher of *The Monticello News*, Kathy Mudd, has announced the sale of the paper to multi award-winning journalist and Monticello native, Evan Newton.

Newton will officially became the new owner of *The News'* parent company, The Monticello News, Inc., on Thursday, July 16. The terms of the sale were not disclosed.

"It is the greatest honor of my professional career to become the new owner of *The Monticello News*," Newton said. "From growing up as an avid reader, to getting my professional start as an intern, to becoming the owner, it's truly a full-circle moment."

Newton is a Jasper County native and lifetime resident who graduated from Jasper County High School in 2019. He attended Georgia College & State University where he received a bachelor's degree in mass communication with a minor in rhetoric.

After graduation, Newton joined *The News* as an intern from May to October 2023, specializing in writing and digital media production. His first full-time job in the news industry was with *The Covington News* in Covington as the paper's news editor. There, he led the news coverage for the twice-weekly print and 24/7 online publication.

Newton was promoted to managing editor of *The Covington News* on September 18, 2024, where he oversaw all editorial production until July 10, 2026. Under his leadership, *The Covington News* surged to record highs in digital and social media reach, while maintaining a steady print subscriber base. He also led the paper to several awards in the Georgia Press Association Better Newspaper Contest in 2025 and 2026.

Now, at 25 years old, Newton becomes one of the youngest newspaper owners in the United States.

Mrs. Mudd began work in the summer of 1975, just a few months after her parents, Bill and Chris Hughes, purchased the paper. Not far out of high school, she joined her parents, little sister, Jenny, as well as others in publishing *The Monticello News*.

Her parents initially took the paper from linotype to offset printing, and that is still used today. However, the way the paper gets to the printer has changed immensely. Now, it is all done on computer, whereas much was done by hand 50+ years ago.

After attending the University of Georgia, Mrs. Mudd worked alongside her parents until her mother was stricken with lung cancer in 1989, succumbing to the disease in 1990. Mr. Hughes, his daughters and other staff, continued to publish The News. Then, when he was ready to retire, Mrs. Mudd purchased the paper from him and has run it since then, which is believed to have been in the late 1990s. Mr. Hughes died in 2011.

Mrs. Mudd has been at the helm since that time. The News has expanded its digital footprint in recent years, while maintaining print as the primary product. Mrs. Mudd Is excited to see a young person come along who will grow with the times.

"I'm excited for this opportunity for *The News*. Evan appreciates and respects the value of the print edition, while recognizing that in this digital age, he must have something to offer those who prefer electronic news. Look for big things from this young man!"

Newton says he's excited to lead *The Monticello News* into the future.

"Filling the shoes of the Hughes family will be no easy task, and I am incredibly humbled to be taking over for a family that has embodied the true definition of community journalism," Newton said. "But make no mistake about it, I'm here to make sure that The News not only survives, but thrives for years to come."

The Monticello News is a weekly printed newspaper and a 24/7 online publication located in the heart of Jasper County. Founded in 1881, it serves as the official legal organ of Monticello, Shady Dale, Hillsboro and Jasper County. For more information about, visit www.themonticellonews.com